Hafa Adai!

Castro: Accreditation, being up to par with best industry practices important. PAGE 2

Phase 1 of Tinian Divert Airfield project to be completed next year. PAGE 3

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Hotel Association of the NMI officials and members pose for a group photo after their membership meeting for the month of May at the Grandvrio Hotel Saipan last Thursday.

'We're in an urgent situation'

HANMI says picture not very rose for summer in terms of air service

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI's tourism industry is in an urgent situation as the picture is not very rosy for the summer in terms of air service into the Commonwealth, according to Ivan Quichocho, who is the Hotel Association of the NMI board vice chairman.

Quichocho, HANMI board president

See URGENT on Page 4

Uncertified dive instructor flees CNMI after drowning

CHRYSTAL MARINO
Department of Public Safety Commissioner Anthony Macaranas gives the media updates on the Lau Lau dive site drowning investigation during a press conference last Friday.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The supposed dive instructor who oversaw the fatal dive of a 41-year-old Chinese last May 17 fled the CNMI 24

See FLEES on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A new makeshift candle box can now be seen on the spot in As Teo Drive corner Chalan Santa Lourdes in As Teo, where sisters Maleina and Faloma Q. Luhk were reportedly last seen waiting for a school bus near their residence in the morning of May 25, 2011.

'Lack of new information in Luhk sisters' case'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The lack of new information is the challenge that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is facing regarding the investigation into the disappearance of sisters Maleina and Faloma Q. Luhk 13 years ago, according to the FBI on Friday.

See LACK on Page 4

HANMI says inclusion of PH to Guam/CNMI visa waiver program could bring in over 400K visitors

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Hotel Association for the NMI is in support of the Philippine House of Representatives' efforts to include Philippines in the Guam/CNMI visa waiver program stating the inclusion could bring in over 400,000 tourists to the Marianas.

For years, the CNMI has relied on three markets to keep the tourism industry alive: Korea, Japan, and China.

However, after the

See HANMI on Page 4

INSIDE

SUPPLEMENT
This Memorial Day marks a significant milestone in our island and our nation's history. Eighty years ago, on June 15, 1944, World War II arrived on Saipan's western shores.
PAGE 7

LOCAL
Students of Rota's Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School, joined by sixth grade students of Sinapalo Elementary School, held their annual youth summit last Friday.
PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE
Documentary filmmaker Morgan Spurlock, an Oscar nominee whose most famous works skewered America's food industry and who notably ate only at McDonald's for a month to illustrate the dangers of a fast-food diet, has died.
PAGE 19

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Local

ADDRESSING THE RECENT SUSUPE FIRE

Castro: Accreditation, being up to par with best industry practices important

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As a Precinct 2 representative, Rep. Manny Castro (Ind-Saipan) stresses the importance of accreditation, maintenance, and training to limit incidences like the Susupe fire that happened last weekend.

Victims of the Susupe fire shared that while the fire spread rapidly, that there was an issue with water needed to extinguish the fire.

Specifically, *Saipan Tribune* learned that because water could not be accessed from a nearby fire hydrant, there was a delay in extinguishing the fire because there was a brief waiting period for a fire truck from up north.

Speaking at a joint public hearing last Wednesday, Castro shared that it is important to get departments like the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services accredited to ensure certain standards are met like proper equipment maintenance and proper training.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
A fire hydrant is seen leaking across Fire Station 1 in Susupe.

"I'm not trying to throw anyone under the bus, but I wanted to stress the importance of accreditation and getting our departments accredited. Right now, with our Firefighters, I know they're going through a lot of issues in terms of funding, shift changes, etc. I intend to meet with the DFEMS commissioner. We fear change. But when the data and information is there, we need to look at the best possible solutions," he said.

"We need to look at these situations and take proactive measures whether it be installing sprinklers in areas prone to forest fires, or make sure that we have proper maintenance of our fire engines and hydrants and proper training for our firemen. I firmly believe that for many years, we've

See CASTRO on Page 4

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Phase 1 of Tinian Divert Airfield project to be completed next year

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first phase of the Tinian Divert Airfield is now expected to completed by Oct. 16, 2025.

Back in February 2022, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, Department of Defense, and Tinian Municipality broke ground on the first phase of the construction of the Tinian Divert Airfield.

The Tinian Divert Airfield—to which is being constructed largely on the north side of the Tinian airport—will allow the U.S. Air Force to use Tinian as an alternative landing site for its planes—a divert airfield—in case Anderson Air Force Base in Guam is inaccessible due to war or calamities.

Aquino

During the groundbreaking ceremony back in 2022, the expected completion date of the over $161.8-million project was Oct. 9, 2025.

However, according to CBMA special assistant Danny Aquino, the first phase of the project will be completed on Oct. 16, 2025

The first phase of the divert airfield facility entails the completion of a parking apron for miliary planes and overall airfield development.

As for Phase II, Aquino said the expected completion date is Oct. 11, 2026.

The second phase entails the construction of a cargo pad with a taxiway extension, a maintenance support facility, fuel tanks with receipt pipeline and hydrant systems, and roads.

The contract for the first phase of the Tinian Divert Airfield was awarded to Black Micro Corp. back in Nov. 30, 2021.

The contract amount for Phase II of the Tinian Divert Airfield porject is about $221.7 million and was awarded to Black Micro last April 19, 2023.

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Cannabis Commission gets $517,868, others $500K

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has signed into law a bill that will appropriate $517,868 to the Commonwealth Cannabis Commission for its day-to-day operations in regulating the Commonwealth's cannabis industry.

Palacios also signed into law a local bill that will appropriate $500,000 to different agencies, including the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for its Health Network Program, or medical referral program.

Palacios

The governor informed House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) that he signed House Bill No. 23-89, SD1, into Public Law No. 23-20, and House Local Bill No. 23-52, S1, D1, into Saipan Local Law No. 23-15.

Introduced by Rep. Diego Vincent F. Camacho (D-Saipan), House Bill No. 23-89, SD1 seeks to appropriate $517,868 to the Commonwealth Cannabis Commission for their operations/personnel.

The money was collected from different types of license fees and application fees assessed by the Commonwealth Cannabis Commission pursuant to 4 CMC Section 53036.

Introduced by Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) and other representatives, House Local Bill No. 23-52, S1, D1 seeks to appropriate $500,000 from revenues collected from revenues of amusement licenses collected for Saipan pursuant to Public Law 20-59.

Of the $500,000 revenues, $200,000 will be appropriated to CHCC's Health Network Program, $150,000 for the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture, $20,000 for the Northern Marianas Sports Association for the 10th Micronesian Games, and $65,000 for engines for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

For the remaining amount, $25,000 will be appropriated for upgrading Capitol Hill baseball field and other baseball fields on Saipan, $20,000 for the Commonwealth Cancer Association, and $20,000 for the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

A non-profit organization run by and for persons with disabilities

Center for Living Independently in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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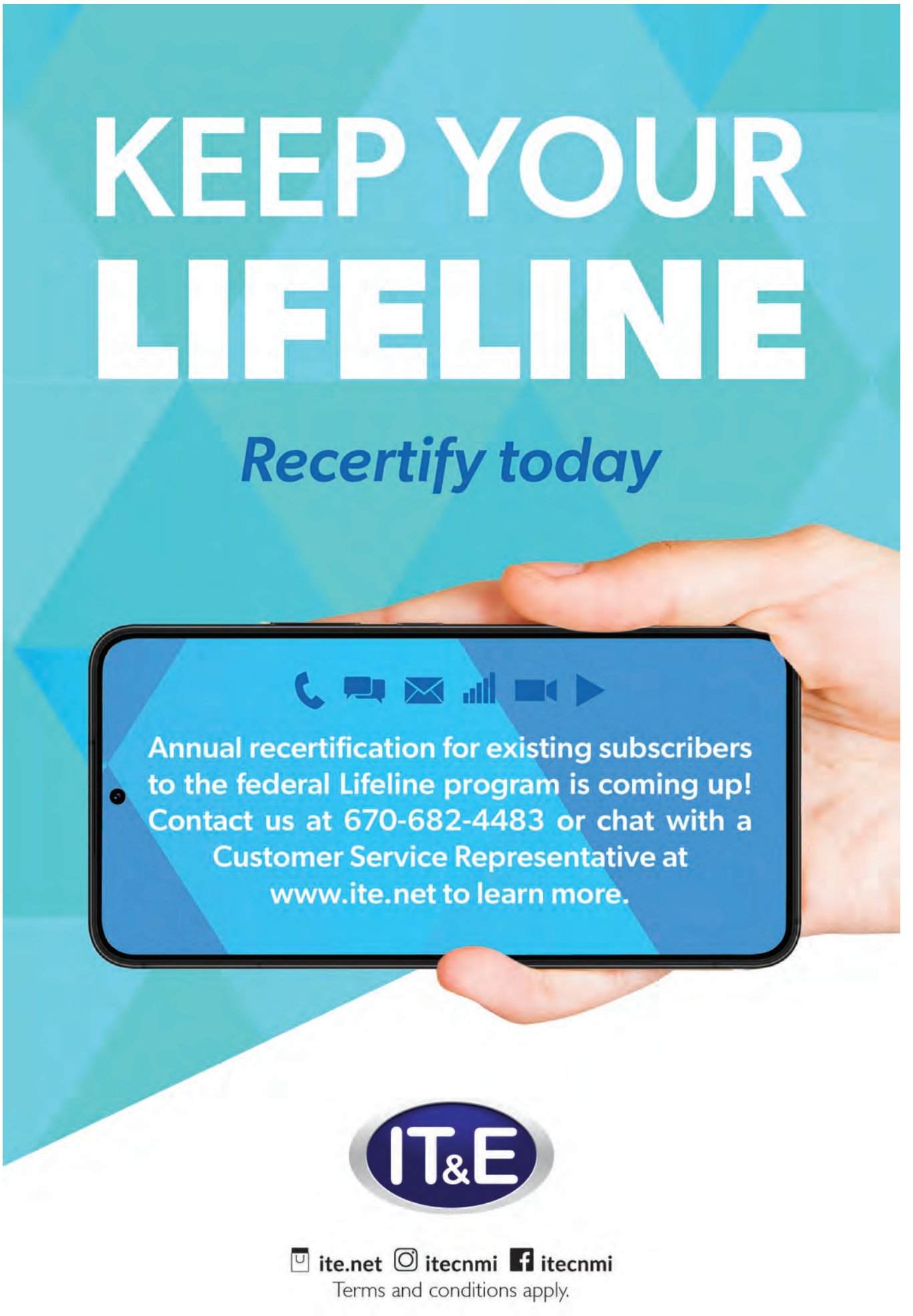
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Today's Memorial Day ceremony ends weeklong festivities

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs concludes its weeklong Memorial Day festivities today with a ceremony at the Veterans Cemetery.

The CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Office of the Governor, is inviting the entire community to a Memorial Day ceremony today at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi in commemoration of the nation's fallen heroes.

Today's ceremony concludes OVA's weeklong festivities which started with a proclamation signing last Monday.

"OVA is encouraging everyone to attend the Memorial Day Celebration today at 9am held at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi. This day holds particular significance as the community honors the memory of fallen heroes and pays tribute to their sacrifice," said OVA.

Acting governor David M. Apatang also encourages the community to observe Memorial Day with appropriate activities in support and honor of the nation's heroes.

"I call upon everyone to observe this [day] with appropriate ceremonies and activities in support and honor of our troops, veterans, and their families all around the world.

Let us come together in unity to recognize the ultimate sacrifice made by those who have served in our armed forces," said Apatang.

Additionally, today's Memorial Day ceremony celebrates the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian. All CNMI Marine Scouts will be honored during today's ceremony.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Office of Veterans Affairs and acting governor David M. Apatang, center, pose for a photo after a proclamation signing deeming May 21-27 Memorial Week which will conclude with a Memorial Day celebration today at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

URGENT

From page 1

Dennis Seo, and HANMI board director Sachiko N. Gerrard granted a media interview shortly after the association held this month's general membership meeting at the Grandvrio Resort Saipan last Thursday afternoon.

Quichocho said the average room rate for April was dropping by $10 as compared to April 2023, and HANMI members are making less money with low average room occupancy at 35%.

"So it's tough situation. Critical situation," he said.

Quichocho said the reality is it's really about the numbers and there's only one way to improve the hotel occupancy—through more flights and more tourists.

"We just talked about what's not coming. And we just talked about the effort to try and get us to the base number of flights that we had last year without the additional Guam diversions and that's already a struggle," he said, referring to their membership meeting.

Quichocho said CNMI leaders should really take heed and listen to what Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Gloria Cavanagh stated at a recent economic forum because it's serious.

"I mean, we're in an urgent situation," he pointed out.

Cavanagh stated in the recent Economic Forum that this summer will be make or break and will decide whether or not hotels close permanently or temporarily.

As to the question whether other hotels, not just Hyatt Regency Saipan, considering closing their doors or talking about possibility closing their doors, Quichocho said nobody's out there openly talking about it.

"As an organization, we're not talking about hey, are you closing? That conversation doesn't happen. But we all understand the numbers," he said.

Seo said they have not heard of any HANMI members closing very soon.

HANMI has 13 member hotels.

Seo, however, said all their members are losing money and struggling financially.

He said their members have been losing $100,000 or even more every month.

Quichocho said one hotel could be losing half a million a month so those are serious numbers.

Gerrard said they don't want another Hyatt Regency Saipan closure so they share information and work together as much as possible.

"We get together, [talk about] what we need, plan it and then speak out and reach out wherever we can get help," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

FLEES

From page 1

hours after the tragic incident, according to the Department of Public Safety.

Police also found out that the supposed dive instructor, Qi Wei Shi, was running an unlicensed dive shop and he himself wasn't a certified dive instructor.

In a press conference last Friday, DPS Commissioner Anthony Macaranas said following the victim's death, suspicion and interest were raised due to reports of Qi fleeing the CNMI along with his family.

"Based on the investigation, as it revealed, the supposed dive company that was sponsoring this dive had fled the CNMI the next day. He (dive instructor) packed up his stuff and took his family back home. Right now, they're back in China," he said

Macaranas added as the investigators were following up, they found out that the vehicle that was used to pick up the diving gear was dropped off at a rental car shop in Koblerville and the people there that received the vehicle didn't have any knowledge that the dive equipment was inside the vehicle.

"When they received the vehicle, because it was just dropped there without any notification, they put down the dive gear and then they started cleaning the car. Unknown to them, a couple of individuals who came by to the rental car [shop], picked up those diving equipment, and left without saying anything."

Macaranas said that DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau and Marine Patrol officers recovered the dive equipment last Thursday.

"Now they're going through forensic examination to see what transpired during the incident. So other than the dive equipment itself, they also recovered some GoPro footage that was attached to the dive equipment. Unfortunately, like I said, the people that are responsible for this had already fled the CNMI. What I also learned is that they cleaned out the place where they stayed. So, this has happened within a 24-hour period." he said

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

HANMI

From page 1

COVID-19 pandemic, only the CNMI's Korea market has recovered significantly while the Japan market continues to struggle. Meanwhile, due to geopolitical issues, the return of the CNMI's China market has been slow.

Now, with the Philippine House of Representatives unanimously voting to pass House Resolution 332 (which essentially enlists the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs to request U.S President Joseph Biden to include the country in the existing Guam/CNMI visa waiver program), there is hope for a new source market that could greatly improve tourist arrivals in the Marianas.

In an official statement from HANMI, through the possible inclusion of Philippines to Guam/CNMI visa waiver program, there is a possibility of further diversifying the CNMI's tourism industry while possibly bringing in over 400,000 new visitors.

"We support this as it brings in additional tourists and helps with the recovery of the tourism industry of NMI. The population of the Philippines is 115.6 million (in 2022), and according to data from FIES (PSA 2015) that 1.4% of them are high-income and 40% (app. 2 in every 5 people) of Filipinos belong to the middle-income class. Assuming that only 1 % of the 40% middle-income class population can afford to travel to NMI, that would equate to 460,000 people. In 2017, a total of 653,150 tourists arrived in the NMI. With only that 1% of the 40% will make up 70% of the 2017 arrivals. HANMI supports this from the perspective of NMI's diversification of tourism market sources," said HANMI.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

LACK

From page 1

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry, Joy van der Voort, who is the FBI-Honolulu Division acting public affairs/community outreach specialist, said they can confirm that the Luhk sisters' case is still open and they continue to actively pursue any leads they may receive.

"We urge the public to contact us with any information they may have at FBI Saipan Tip Line at (670) 322-6934 or (800) CALL-FBI (225-5324)," van der Voort said.

On Saturday, marked the 13th year when the Luhk sisters mysteriously disappeared while waiting for a school bus near their residence in As Teo, yet there's still no trace of their whereabouts.

Maleina and Faloma were 9 and 10 years old when they were reportedly last seen at a bus stop in the morning of May 25, 2011. Maleina would have been 22 years old and Faloma 23 now.

Van der Voort said the cash reward for any information that will lead to the sisters' location is still $25,000.

Van der Voort said anyone can find the age progression images of Maleina and Faloma Luhk on the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (https://www.missingkids.org/poster/NCMC/1172939/2).

Meanwhile, Elbert Quitugua, the Luhk sisters' grandfather, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday he installed last Thursday at 6pm a new makeshift candle box on the spot in As Teo Drive corner Chalan Santa Lourdes, where his granddaughters were last seen.

When *Saipan Tribune* visited the spot Wednesday, the original makeshift candle box/shrine was no longer there.

Quitugua said yesterday that he replaced the broken glass on the old box, ordered a new one, and picked it up and installed it only last Thursday.

The FBI and the Department of Public Safety have been working together for the past decade now to find the missing sisters.

The sisters' disappearance triggered an island-wide search for a month by federal and local enforcement agencies. Many volunteers in the community participated in the search.

CASTRO

From page 2

been going through similar challenges, no matter what administration, but until we look at accreditation, setting standards, and being up to par with best practices in the industry, we're going to continue to have these challenges," he added.

According to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, DFEMS received a call about a fire in Susupe just behind the Department of Corrections building at around 10:19pm and issued out multiple units to respond to the site.

Arriving at the scene at 10:23pm, Rescue-1 conducted a thorough assessment reporting a trash fire and said flames were dangerously close to both the housing structures and nearby vehicles.

The point of origin of the fire was determined to be the northside of the buildings which used to be a small shed and part of an auto shop.

DFEMS said within minutes of Rescue-1's arrival the fire escalated and engulfed the structures. Rescue personnel immediately evacuated nearby residents to safety, while off-duty firefighters from Alpha Shift joined forces to contain the blaze.

Under the leadership of Bravo Shift commander, Capt. J.C. Camacho, the main fire was brought under control by 1:08am, marking the beginning of the mop-up phase. By 2:07am, the fire was fully contained and extinguished.

Fire investigator Lamarc Iguel said with multiple fuel loads, the fire was able to spread quickly toward the southern side of the structure.

Meanwhile, minor soot damage was found on adjacent structures on the southern side, and the suppression operation was able to control the fire's exposure and contain it in one area.

He added that the eastern side of the housing structures suffered roof collapses as a result of the inferno.

"Based on scene investigations and interview statements, the area of the origin was located on the northeast side of the property."

As of now, the cause of the fire remains under investigation by the Division of Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation, with a determination expected at a later date.

New feature for verifying Certificates of Good Standing on Labor website

The CNMI Department of Labor is proud to announce the launch of a new feature on its website, labor.cnmi.gov, designed to enhance transparency and ease of access for businesses and stakeholders. This innovative feature provides a comprehensive list of all businesses that have applied for a Certificate of Good Standing in the CNMI.

A Certificate of Good Standing is an important document that signifies a business has no pending labor or compliance agency cases against the organization. Additionally, it confirms that the business is in compliance with key labor regulations and requirements such as submission of the quarterly Workforce Census and meeting the 30% workforce participation objective, submission of the annual Workforce Plan, and CNMI Tax and Revenue obligations, including the Business Gross Revenue Tax and employee withholding tax. While this certificate is often used to apply for federal contracts, it is important to note that it is not a requirement for the CW application by USCIS.

The Certificate of Good Standing list can be found under the Resources tab in the Forms and Publications section, under Agency Presentations and Reports titled "Certificate of Good Standing Request list." It is important to note that only businesses that requested this certificate are listed. This public listing will serve as a valuable resource for any entity needing to verify the authenticity of a Certificate of Good Standing.

In response to instances of certificate forgery, this initiative ensures the integrity and trustworthiness of businesses operating within the CNMI. The list is updated regularly, allowing for real-time verification. Furthermore, all future Certificates of Good Standing will include a QR code that directs users to the webpage, facilitating easy verification.

The Certificate of Good Standing request form is now also available online. Interested business applicants can find the form on our new web page. Simply go to the Divisions and Programs dropdown menu and choose the Administrative Services page. Click on the "Request for Certificate of Good Standing," and a form will pop up. Fill out all parts of the form, upload all required documents, and submit. A voucher will be sent via email. Present and pay the voucher at the CNMI Treasury. (There is no online payment option available at this time.) After payment, go back to the voucher email and send the receipt of payment from the CNMI Treasury.

Please note that processing time begins once the DOL staff acknowledges receipt of payment via email confirmation.

These developments are part of the DOL's ongoing efforts to improve digital access to information and uphold the integrity of compliant businesses in the CNMI. We are committed to making it more difficult for fraudulent activities to thrive, thus protecting the interests of legitimate businesses.

For more information, visit our website at labor.cnmi.gov or contact our Administrative Services office at (670) 664-3196. ***(PR)***

Revenue and Taxation welcomes UB Tax Clinic

The Division of Revenue and Tax is announcing the arrival of the UB Tax Clinic from the University of Baltimore School of Law, which will operate on select days between June 4 and 13. The Tax Clinic aims to provide assistance to taxpayers and businesses struggling with tax debt in conjunction with the Azarvand Tax Law.

Services include the following:

- Helping taxpayers understand their rights and responsibilities;
- Informational assistance to help taxpayers understand their tax obligations and avoid future issues;
- Discuss possible penalty and interest reductions or forgiveness options; and
- Discuss possible reduction of underlying tax liabilities.

QR code for the UB Tax Clinic conducted by the University of Baltimore School of Law.

The UB Tax Clinic will be available on Saipan during the following dates and times:

- 10am- 4pm (June 4)
- 10am-4pm (June 6)
- 10am-4pm (June 11)
- 10am-4pm (June 13)

Visit https://finance.gov.mp/revenue-taxation.php for more information, or register online by following the QR code. ***(PR)***

Call for expression of interest on Judiciary Summer Pre-Law Program 2025

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Since its inception in 1991, the Judiciary Summer Pre-Law Program has had 35 participants obtain their juris doctor degree in law schools across the nation, and most have returned to the Northern Marianas to work as prosecutors, defense counsels, private practitioners, and judges.

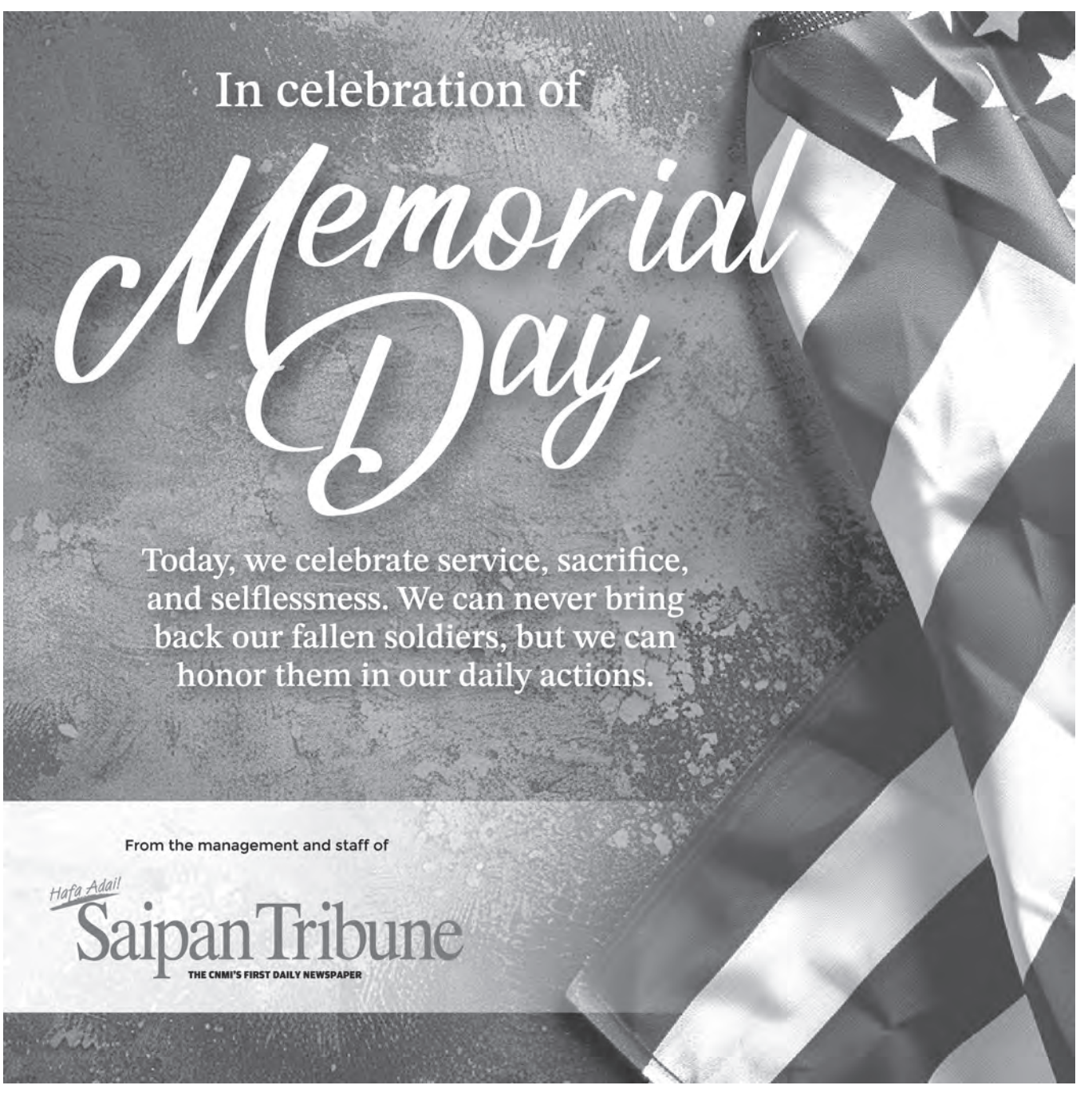
The CNMI Supreme Court announces its plan to conduct the Judiciary Summer Pre-Law Program in June-July 2025, provided there is sufficient interest from the community. The Pre-Law Program provides participants with the opportunity to experience the academic life of a first-year law student. Law professors will teach two introductory law courses and participants will compete in a simulated appellate argument. The program takes place every weekday morning for three weeks in June and July and is designed for current undergraduate students or recent graduates. Participants will work individually and in small groups to study class materials, research and write legal briefs, and present oral arguments to attorneys. Each participant will be connected with an attorney-mentor for the duration of the program, many of whom are past participants.

Since its inception in 1991, the successful pre-law program has had 35 participants obtain their juris doctor degree in law schools across the nation, and most have returned to the Northern Marianas to work as prosecutors, defense counsels, private practitioners, and judges.

The intensive pre-law program is conducted every three to five years—the last one was held in June 2022 with 19 participants. Visiting professors taught introductory Property Law and Legal Research and Writing. The 2022 cohort has produced, so far, the following six law students

- Ardel Ciolo, Penn State Law, May 2027
- Josephine Estrada, Syracuse University College of Law, May 2027
- Lallane Guiao-Seng, University of Connecticut School of Law, May 2027
- Brianna Hunter, Cleveland State University College of Law, May 2026
- Michael Johnson, University of Hawai'i Richardson School of Law, May 2026
- Lisa Phair, Syracuse University College of Law, May 2025

Interested or potential applicants are encouraged to contact Judy T. Aldan, Esq. at the Supreme Court at Judy.Aldan@NMIJudiciary.gov for more information. ***(PR)***


In celebration of
Memorial Day
Today, we celebrate service, sacrifice, and selflessness. We can never bring back our fallen soldiers, but we can honor them in our daily actions.
From the management and staff of
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

MVA

The Marianas was awarded "Most Popular Booth" at the 39th Seoul International Travel Fair held on May 9-12, 2024, at CODEX in Seoul, South Korea. The fair attracted 42,000 attendees, and the Marianas Visitors Authority's booth featured indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian dancers and information about Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

The Marianas stands out at Seoul Int'l Travel Fair

Among over 500 booths at this month's 39th Seoul International Travel Fair in South Korea, the Marianas was awarded "Most Popular Booth" by organizers based on the response of the estimated 42,000 attendees of the event.

The Marianas Visitors Authority showcased the attractions of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian with a nature-themed booth at the fair held on May 9-12, 2024, at COEX in Seoul. Against the backdrop of the destination's iconic Managaha island and indigenous Chamorro latte stones, the MVA presented traditional Chamorro and Carolinian dance performances and other activities in attracting a crowd.

"The dances received a huge response at the fair and opened the eyes of attendees to what makes The Marianas unique among beach destinations," said MVA Marketing manager Thomas Kim. "Our indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian culture continues to be an important part of the MVA's marketing messages, and we've grateful to receive an award for our promotional effort and, more importantly, to be able to share our island charm and destination information with many potential visitors."

In addition, the MVA and its members hosted a consumer survey, provided a photo booth, served Marianas Blend coffee, and gave out prizes, including one roundtrip Incheon-Saipan airline tickets each from Jeju Air and T'way.

Five hundred and two organizations and companies from 39 countries participated in Seoul International Travel Fair, providing visitors with information on domestic and international destinations, as well as travel contents by theme, including gourmet food, hobbies, healing, and activities. ***(PR)***

MVA

Delegates from the Marianas led by Marianas Visitors Authority Korea Business Development & Co-op Marketing Manager Sunny Jeong, fifth right, receive the award for "Most Popular Booth" at the 39th Seoul International Travel Fair held on May 9-12, 2024, at CODEX in Seoul, South Korea. The fair attracted 42,000 attendees and over 500 exhibitors.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2024

Opening date: May 15, 2024 **Closing date: June 5, 2024**

Location: SAIPAN **SALARY**

Position(s):

(1) Staff Engineer **UNGRADED**

Nature of Work

Highly responsible for all engineering programs and activities of CPA.

This employee is responsible for the management and supervision of engineering programs and activities at the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). Work is technical in nature and reviewed through conferences with the Executive Director or his designee and submission of reports. Employee exercises independent judgment in solutions to situations or problems in which no precedents exist. This position is unclassified.

Minimum Qualifications

Graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) and a four (4) year degree in civil engineering from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional engineering level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

(1) STAFF ATTORNEY **UNGRADED**

Nature of Work

Under the general direction of the CPA Board of the Directors and the Executive Director to provide legal assistance and advice on a day-to-day basis and to render such legal services as may be requested. Required to perform such services as may be designated, including but not limited to, all or any portion of the employer's administrative, supervisory, planning and other obligations in the operations of the airports and seaport of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This position is unclassified.

Minimum Qualifications

1. Must be a U.S. citizen.
2. Member (active) of the CNMI Bar.
3. Graduated with Juris Doctor degree from an accredited U.S. law school.
4. At least five (5) years work experience in either the government or private practice, and at least three (3) years experience in civil litigation, including jury trials.
5. Have never been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, in any jurisdiction.
6. Shall have no felony or criminal conviction.

(1) COMPTROLLER **UNGRADED**

Nature of Work

Difficult and highly responsible professional accounting work involving the management and supervision of CPA's major accounting program.

This employee is responsible for the management and supervision of all phases and functions of CPA's accounting program consisting of several numbers of subordinate accountants and account clerical personnel. Work is technical in nature and reviewed through conferences with the Executive Director or his designee and submission of reports. Employee exercises independent judgment in solutions to situations or problems in which no clear precedents exist. This position is unclassified.

Minimum Qualifications

Must possess four (4) year degree in Accounting, Finance, or related field from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience in professional Accounting, Finance or managerial level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience. Accounting experience in autonomous agencies and/or U.S. Certified Public Accountant is preferred.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, June 05, 2024.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-012

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of heavy-duty vehicles for its fleet in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-24-012, Supply and Delivery of Heavy-Duty Vehicles"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, ***no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 3, 2024*** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with copies to Steven Rodriguez, CUC's Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email at rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

80 YEARS OF PEACE:

Memorial Day at AMP

Today, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day, American Memorial Park will honor all those who have died serving in America's armed forces.

This Memorial Day marks a significant milestone in our island and our nation's history. Eighty years ago, on June 15, 1944, World War II arrived on Saipan's western shores. Thirty-four years later American Memorial Park was established to honor the American servicemen and the Chamorro and Carolinian people who died during the Battles for Saipan, Tinian, and the Philippine Sea.

Each year the park displays over 500 luminarias in tribute to the servicemen who lost their lives during these battles. The candles will be lit by park staff and volunteers beginning at 5:00 pm on Sunday, May 26 and will remain lit through Memorial Day. Each luminaria represents 10 names engraved on the Court of Honor and Flag Circle. Please consider joining us for this annual event. At sunset on Memorial Day the community is welcome to pay tribute to our fallen in the glow of over 500 luminarias.

The park also invites the community to take part in upcoming events honoring the war's 80th anniversary. This includes free community bus tours happening on June 1, 8, and 22. For these tours, seats are limited, and pre-registration is required. The half day tour will take participants to WWII sites throughout the island.

To stay up to date on park events follow us on social media or simply give us a call at (670) 234-7207 ext. 2020. The Visitor Center is open on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 9am to 4pm.

"We look forward to welcoming you to the park!"

The American Memorial Park is on Instagram @AmericanMemorialPark and Facebook on American Memorial Park. ***(PR)***

5 things to know about Memorial Day, including its evolution and controversies

By BEN FINLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—Memorial Day is supposed to be about mourning the nation's fallen service members, but it's come to anchor the unofficial start of summer and a long weekend of discounts on anything from mattresses to lawn mowers.

But for people such as Manuel Castañeda Jr., the day is very personal. He lost his father, a U.S. Marine who served in Vietnam, in an accident in 1966 in California while his father was training other Marines.

"It isn't just the specials. It isn't just the barbecue," Castañeda told The Associated Press in a discussion about Memorial Day last year.

Castañeda also served in the Marines and Army National Guard, from which he knew men who died in combat. But he tries not to judge others who spend the holiday differently: "How can I expect them to understand the depth of what I feel when they haven't experienced anything like that?"

1. WHY IS MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATED?

It's a day of reflection and remembrance of those who died while serving in the U.S. military, according to the Congressional Research Service. The holiday is observed in part by the National Moment of Remembrance, which encourages all Americans to pause at 3 p.m. for a moment of silence.

2. WHAT ARE THE ORIGINS OR MEMORIAL DAY?

The holiday stems from the American Civil War, which killed more than 600,000 service members—both Union and Confederate—between 1861 and 1865.

There's little controversy over the first national observance of what was then called Decoration Day. It occurred May 30, 1868, after an

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As we gather this Memorial Day, let us take a moment to honor and remember the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Their courage, dedication, and selflessness have ensured the freedoms we cherish today. May we always hold their memory close to our hearts and strive to live in a way that honors their legacy.
Wishing everyone a reflective and meaningful
Memorial Day
From the Office of Senator
Jude Untalan Hofschneider
2nd Senatorial District, Tinian

5 THINGS

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organization of Union veterans called for decorating war graves with flowers, which were in bloom.

The practice was already widespread on a local level. Waterloo, New York, began a formal observance on May 5, 1866, and was later proclaimed to be the holiday's birthplace.

Yet Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, traced its first observance to October 1864, according to the Library of Congress. And women in some Confederate states were decorating graves before the war's end.

David Blight, a Yale history professor, points to May 1, 1865, when as many as 10,000 people, many of them Black, held a parade, heard speeches and dedicated the graves of Union dead in Charleston, South Carolina.

A total of 267 Union troops had died at a Confederate prison and were buried in a mass grave. After the war, members of Black churches buried them in individual graves.

"What happened in Charleston does have the right to claim to be first, if that matters," Blight told The Associated Press in 2011.

In 2021, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel cited the story in a Memorial Day speech in Hudson, Ohio. The ceremony's organizers turned off his microphone because they said it wasn't relevant to honoring the city's veterans. The event's organizers later resigned.

3. HAS MEMORIAL DAY ALWAYS BEEN A SOURCE OF CONTENTION?

Someone has always lamented the holiday's drift from its original meaning.

As early as 1869, The New York Times wrote that the holiday could become "sacrilegious" and no longer "sacred" if it focuses more on pomp, dinners and oratory.

In 1871, abolitionist Frederick Douglass feared Americans were forgetting the Civil War's impetus—enslavement—when he gave a Decoration Day speech at Arlington National Cemetery.

"We must never forget that the loyal soldiers who rest beneath this sod flung themselves between the nation and the nation's destroyers," Douglass said.

His concerns were well-founded, said Ben Railton, a professor of English and American studies at Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts. Even though

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Today we reflect on the courage of those who gave their lives for our freedom. Remembering and honoring you on
Memorial Day
FROM THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF
CIC
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5 THINGS

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roughly 180,000 Black men served in the Union Army, the holiday in many communities would essentially become "white Memorial Day," especially after the rise of the Jim Crow South, Railton told the AP in 2023.

Meanwhile, how the day was spent—at least by the nation's elected officials—could draw scrutiny for years after the Civil War. In the 1880s, then-President Grover Cleveland was said to have gone fishing—and "people were appalled," Matthew Dennis, an emeritus history professor at the University of Oregon, told the AP last year.

By 1911, the Indianapolis 500 held its inaugural race on May 30, drawing 85,000 spectators. A report from The Associated Press made no mention of the holiday—or any controversy.

4. HOW HAS MEMORIAL DAY CHANGED?

Dennis said Memorial Day's potency diminished somewhat with the addition of Armistice Day, which marked World War I's end on Nov. 11, 1918. Armistice Day became a national holiday by 1938 and was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

An act of Congress changed Memorial Day from every May 30th to the last Monday in May in 1971. Dennis said the creation of the three-day weekend recognized that Memorial Day had long been transformed into a more generic remembrance of the dead, as well as a day of leisure.

In 1972, Time Magazine said the holiday had become "a three-day nationwide hootenanny that seems to have lost much of its original purpose."

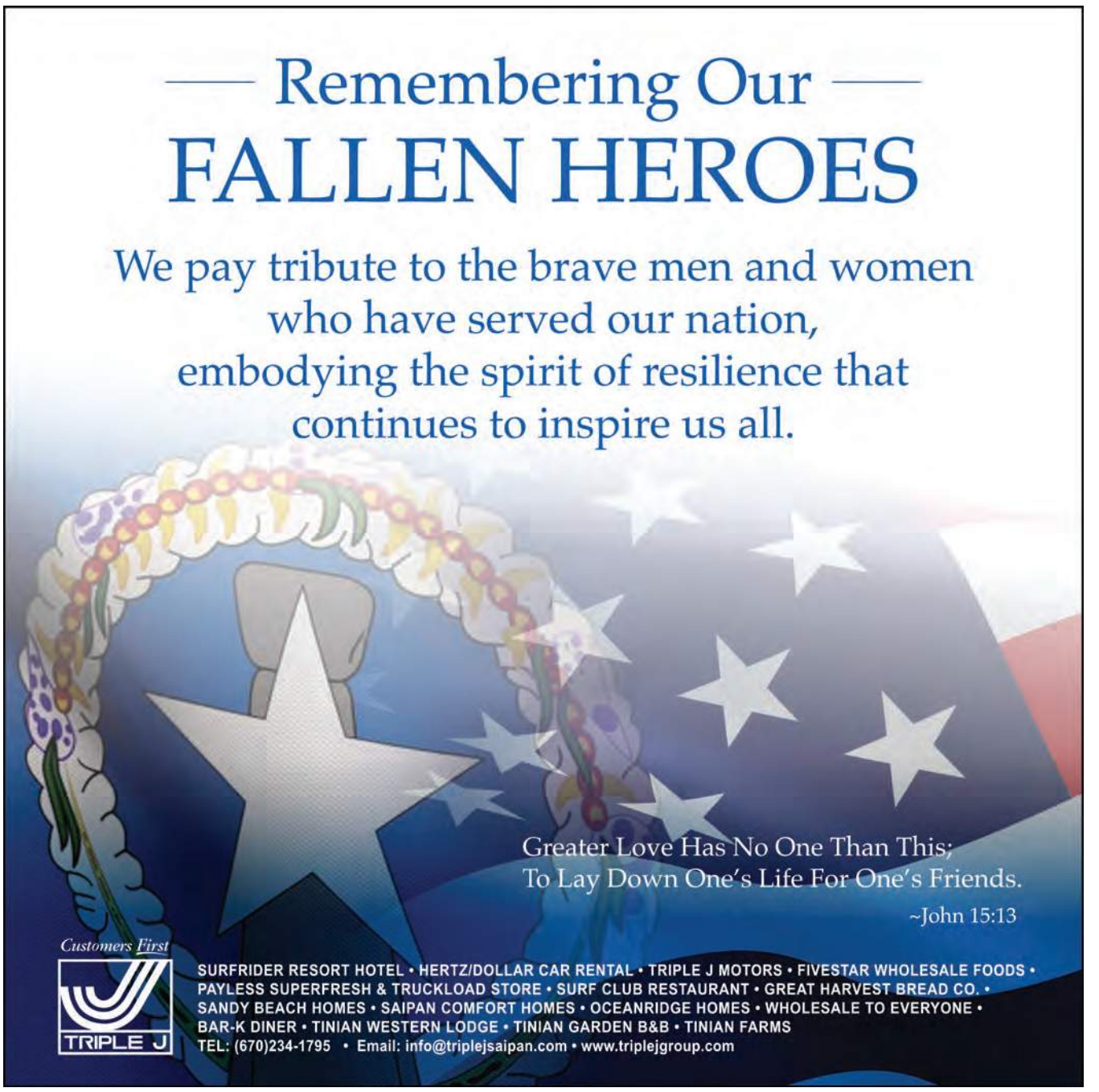
5. WHY IS MEMORIAL DAY TIED TO SALES AND TRAVEL?

Even in the 19th century, grave ceremonies were followed by leisure activities such as picnicking and foot races, Dennis said.

The holiday also evolved alongside baseball and the automobile, the five-day work week and summer vacation, according to the 2002 book "A History of Memorial Day: Unity, Discord and the Pursuit of Happiness."

In the mid-20th century, a small number of businesses began to open defiantly on the holiday.

Once the holiday moved to Monday, "the traditional barriers against doing business began to crumble," authors Richard Harmond and Thomas Curran wrote.


Remembering Our
FALLEN HEROES
We pay tribute to the brave men and women who have served our nation, embodying the spirit of resilience that continues to inspire us all.
Greater Love Has No One Than This;
To Lay Down One's Life For One's Friends.
~John 15:13
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We are grateful for the bravery and sacrifice of our servicemen and women.
We honor you this
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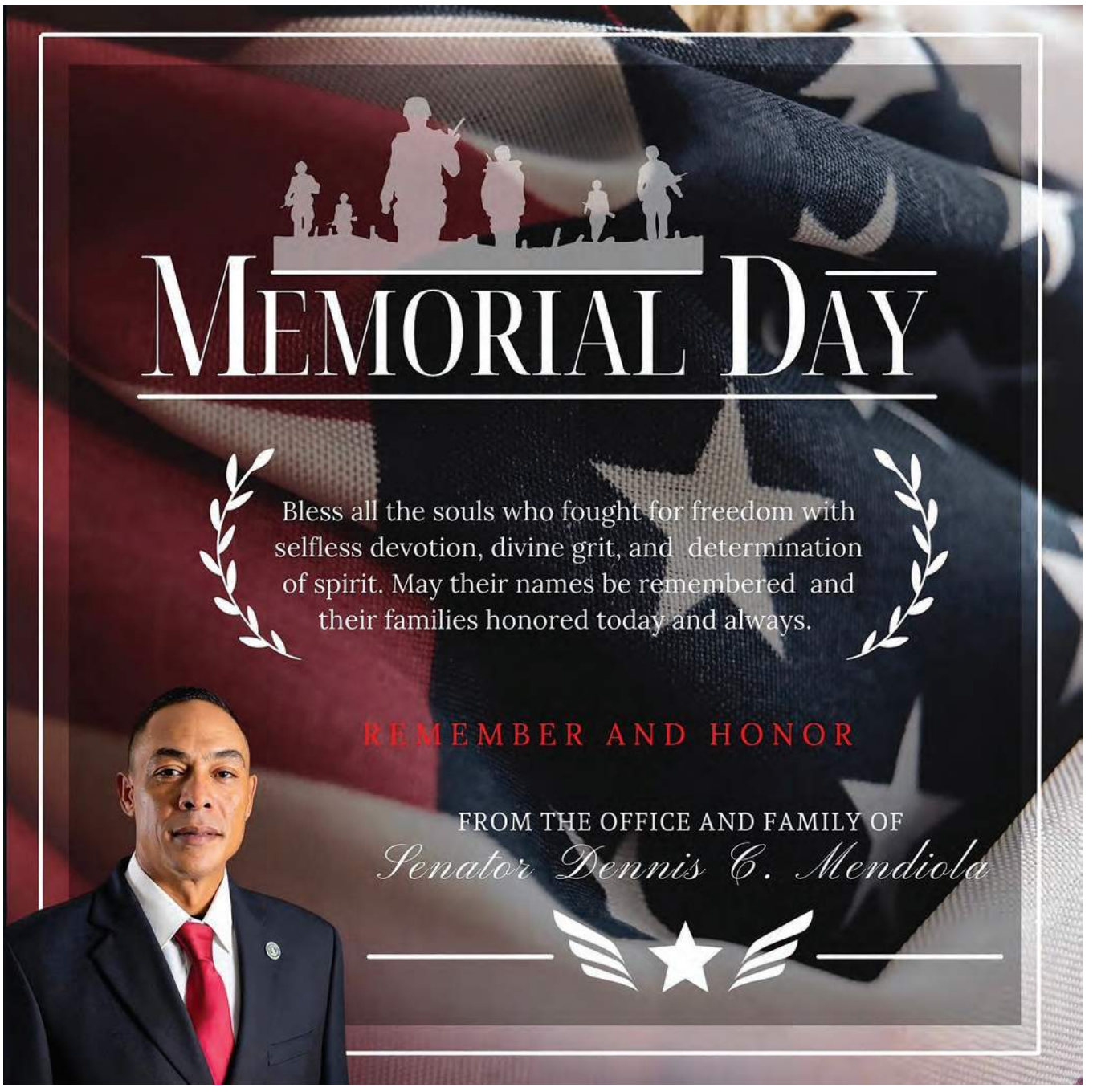
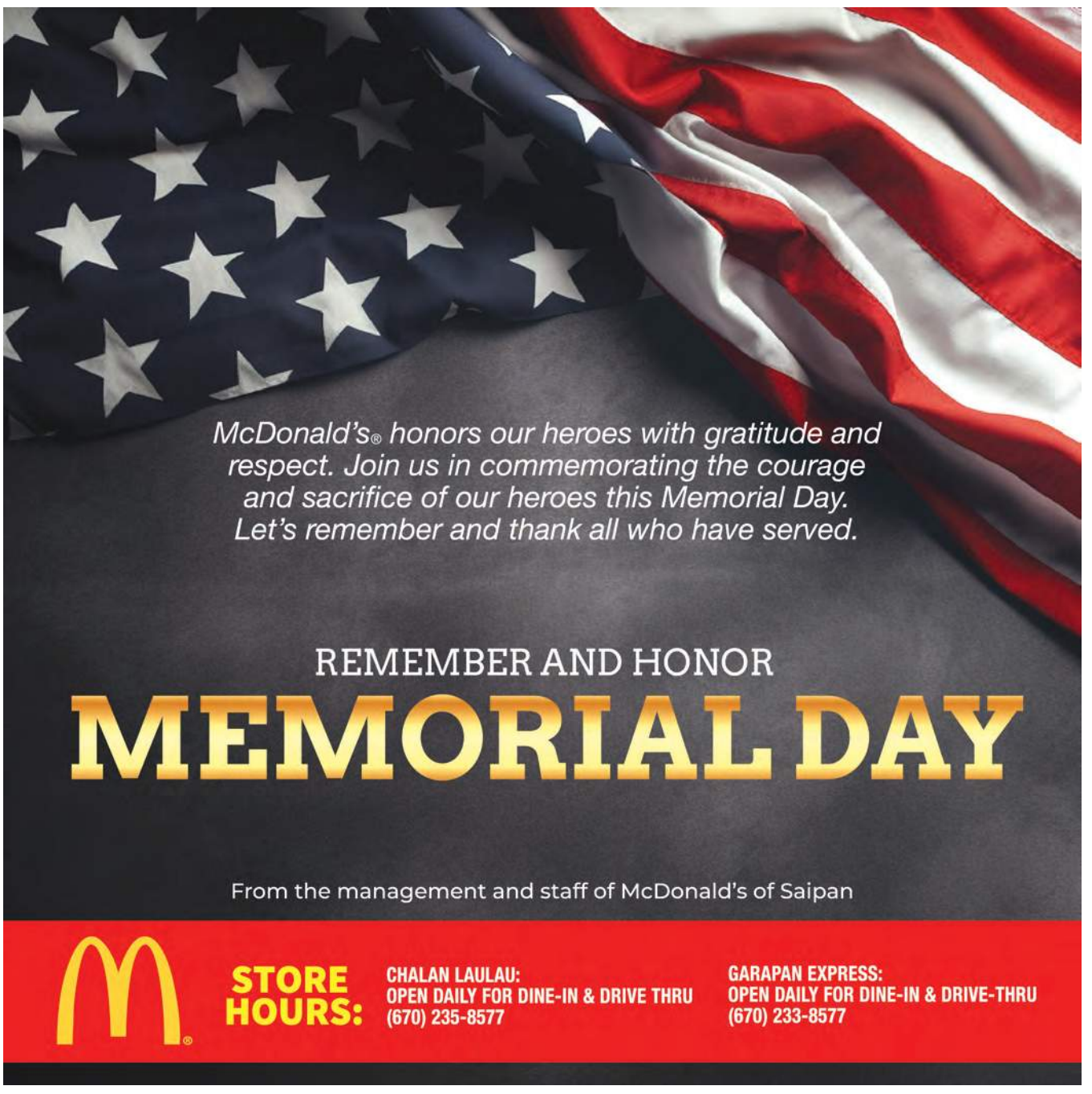

MEMORIAL DAY
Bless all the souls who fought for freedom with selfless devotion, divine grit, and determination of spirit. May their names be remembered and their families honored today and always.
REMEMBER AND HONOR
FROM THE OFFICE AND FAMILY OF
Senator Dennis C. Mendiola


McDonald's® honors our heroes with gratitude and respect. Join us in commemorating the courage and sacrifice of our heroes this Memorial Day. Let's remember and thank all who have served.
REMEMBER AND HONOR
MEMORIAL DAY
From the management and staff of McDonald's of Saipan
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Memorial Day: New survey reveals less than half of US adults understand true meaning of the holiday

SAN ANTONIO (BUSINESS WIRE)—As the nation prepares to observe Memorial Day this year, a new survey sponsored by USAA reveals the lack of understanding about the true meaning of Memorial Day, with many observing the holiday in ways that don't align with the day's true purpose. USAA seeks to help the nation increase its understanding of the holiday while also providing an opportunity to honor and remember America's military men and women who lost their lives in service to their country with its Poppy Wall of Honor.

According to the USAA survey, conducted by Endeavor Analytics and YouGov, only 46% of U.S. adults properly responded that the primary reason for observing Memorial Day is to honor military service members who lost their lives in military conflict. Further, nearly half of respondents (45%) believe an appropriate way to observe Memorial Day is to wish a veteran a "Happy Memorial Day" and/or thank them for their service. While the intentions are well-meaning, the survey results indicate that we all can benefit from additional education on this sacred holiday.

To help educate, the USAA Poppy Wall of Honor—a temporary installation honoring the more than 600,000 American service members who gave their lives in service to our nation since World War I—will return to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. for Memorial Day weekend. Since its first appearance publicly on the National Mall in 2018, more than 50,000 visitors have visited the USAA Poppy Wall of Honor, paying their respects to fallen service members and learning more about the holiday.

"As Americans enjoy their freedoms this holiday weekend surrounded by friends and family, it is important to remember the service members who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend those freedoms, which is the true meaning of Memorial Day," said Army Maj. Gen. (Ret) John Richardson, Senior Vice President, Head of Military Affairs at USAA. "The USAA Poppy Wall of Honor is a unifying symbol for all Americans, reminding us of the humbling reality that our freedom isn't free. Through the Wall, we seek to educate and inspire all Americans to take time this Memorial Day weekend to pause, honor and remember each of our fallen service members, and stand by their families who carry the weight of their absence every day."

The Poppy Wall of Honor will be on display May 24 through May 26 on the National Mall at the base of the Lincoln Memorial between the Reflecting Pool and Korean War Memorial. Visitors can expect to see:

The Poppy Wall of Honor is 133 feet long and stands 8-1/2 feet tall and contains a two-sided interactive, digital exhibit experience. Visitors will learn more about the true meaning of Memorial Day, the poppy flower and conflicts since WWI.

More than 600,000 poppy flowers provided by Veterans of Foreign Wars' Buddy Poppie and The American Legion's Memorial Poppies fill one side of the wall, representing the lives lost since WWI.

This year's Poppy Wall of Honor experience includes new features such as:

A 22' wide x 11' tall LED wall enhancement that will immerse visitors in poppy fields and an excerpt from the poem " We Shall Keep The Faith " by Moina Michael. The poem establishes the poppy as a symbol of remembrance before visitors walk along the panels containing more than 600,000 of the red poppy flowers—each representing a life lived and lost in service to our country.

A special panel commemorating the 80th anniversary of the U.S. military lives lost during D-Day, the Allied invasion of Normandy during WWII.

To help expand the reach and to educate new and younger audiences, USAA has partnered with influencer @EllieGoldenLife, who will assist in educating Americans about Memorial Day and honoring fallen service members. For those unable to view the exhibits in person, you can contribute to the Memorial Day conversation by honoring a loved one or sharing a remembrance using #PoppyInMemory in your social channels. More details can be found at usaa.com/memorialday.

We honor those who made
the ultimate sacrifice this
MEMORIAL
DAY
Thank you
for your service.
From the management and staff of
Tan Holdings
HEALTH IS WEALTH
Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Court ruling ensures veterans will receive education benefits

An Army veteran from Virginia recently won a nearly nine-year battle with the Department of Veterans Affairs over access to education benefits accrued through his service, a 7-2 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that favors those who volunteer to fight for this country.

The VA sought to deny the vet, a 43-year-old from Richmond named Jim Rudisill, the totality for education access earned under two versions of the GI Bill. While the decision came too late for Rudisill, who now serves as an FBI agent, it could help plenty of veterans pursue their dreams following their service.

GI Bill benefits are a debt of honor owed to those who have served in the military, not something that should be subject to bureaucratic economies or lawmakers' budgetary maneuvering. Those who have served honorably have kept their end of the bargain. The U.S. has the obligation to do likewise.

At the heart of Rudisill's case are today's two GI Bill programs. The Montgomery GI Bill is an update of the World War II-era GI Bill. It provides up to 36 months of educational benefits. The Post 9/11 GI Bill, which took effect in 2009, provides more generous education benefits, including housing stipends, also for up to 36 months, for those who entered service after the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Rudisill served in the Army for eight years over three separate periods of service, first as an enlisted soldier and later as an officer. It's no secret that access to higher education is one of the reasons many volunteer for service.

Rudisill used 25 months and 14 days of his 36 months of Montgomery GI Bill eligibility to get his college degree while serving. He returned to the Army as an officer, becoming eligible for the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

A Korean War-era law allows veterans to use benefits from a combination of programs for up to 48 months. Because he had separately earned his entitlements to educational benefits, Rudisill believed that he should be eligible for 22 more months of benefits under the Post 9/11 GI bill. He planned to attend Yale Divinity School, become an Episcopal priest and return to the Army as a chaplain.

But the VA maintained that Rudisill was eligible only for 10 months of Post 9/11 benefits because of its policy of "coordinating" benefits from the two programs. The VA had been making students give up eligibility for the Montgomery program when they signed up for the Post 9/11 bill.

The Supreme Court ruling rejects that position, saying that veterans who earned separate entitlements to both GI Bills cannot use education benefits from both at the same time, and they cannot receive benefits for more than 48 months, but they can use those benefits in any order up to the 48-month cap.

The favorable Supreme Court ruling came too late to help Rudisill. But other veterans who need more help from the VA as they pursue advanced education could benefit from it. The ruling means the VA may have to spend considerably more

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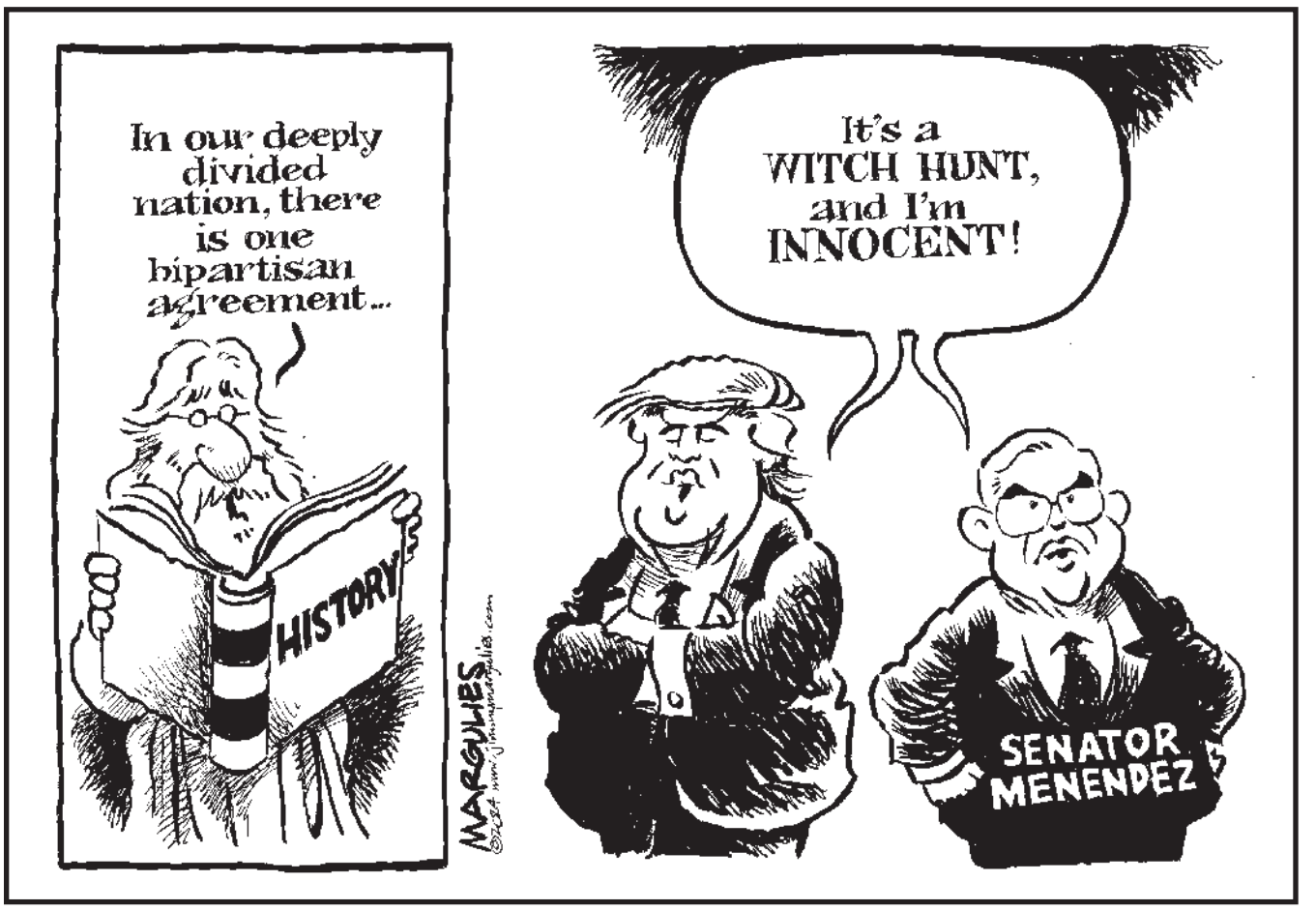
In our deeply divided nation, there is one bipartisan agreement...
HISTORY
It's a WITCH HUNT, and I'm INNOCENT!
SENATOR MENENDEZ
MARGULIES

No matter how deep the hole you are in, pull yourself up

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is the CNMI's delegate to U.S. Congress. This is the keynote speech he delivered at Northern Marianas College's 43rd Commencement Exercises last May 17

Greetings, Class of 2024!

Did any of you see yourself in those photos of my visits to your classrooms over the last 16 years? Is it just me or did we all look a lot younger back then?

What a journey this has been for us all.

Sixteen years ago, you were in pre-school or first grade. I was just starting as your first representative in Congress.

When I ran for that seat and people asked me why, I had a simple answer: Education. Education. Education.

In politics you keep your message simple. And it does not get much simpler than simply repeating the same word over and over: Education. Education. Education.

Even though the message is simple, the belief behind the message is profound. Because I believe providing an education is the most important thing your community can do for you. And I truly believe that getting an education is the most important work any of us can do for ourselves. Education gives us the ability to understand ourselves, our community, and the world — and the ability to make our world better.

So, congratulations on your graduation today.

Sixteen years ago, we were all just starting out. And now we are at an inflection point. I am leaving Congress. Many of you are leaving the year-after-year of formal education. Taking what you have learned out into the world to see what you can do with it.

Because we are reaching this moment in life together, I am incredibly grateful to you for inviting me to speak to you today. You give me an incredible gift to be here with you and your families at your graduation and to feel I have been your companion along the way—for 16 years. Thank you.

I should also say how fortunate we are to be celebrating your graduation today, just as you imagined it would be: classmates together, surrounded by family and friends.

On other campuses in America, graduations have been canceled, because of political unrest.

I certainly support the right of students or any American to speak freely and express their views, uncensored. And my heart is breaking to see the suffering of the people of Palestine and Israel. I pray they find it in their hearts to put anger and hatred and grievance aside and live in peace.

I know many of you graduates must be troubled by this terrible conflict, too. But I commend you for understanding the way to express your feelings and political views is through peaceful action. And I commend President Deleon Guerrero and the entire Marianas College community for respecting each other's views and respecting the principle of peaceful protest. That respect allows us to celebrate your graduation today, just as you imagined.

But you did not invite me here to reminisce about the old days of visiting your classrooms or talk about international politics. From your commencement speaker you want a little inspiration, some pearls of wisdom, words to live by in the future.

That is why my first stop was ChatGPT. So, what does ChatGPT suggest I say to you?

How about I just tell you my story.

I was a drug addict. I have been clean and sober for 28 years, but, yeah, I was a drug addict.

I came from a good family. My grandfather, Kilili, trained as a teacher during the German administration. He was a vice governor in the Japanese administration. After World War II, the Americans moved everyone to Camp Susupe, where the people elected him their first mayor.

My uncle and father took after their father, went into public service, helped launch our Commonwealth government.

But did I follow in those illustrious footsteps? Did I uphold our family legacy? No. I turned to drugs and became an addict. I was a joke. Broke. In the gutter. A failure and disappointment to everyone who loved me.

What can you do when you're at rock bottom? How do you avoid despair?

Maybe I just got lucky. Because I had faith in myself, despite my obvious failure. I had a little bit of hope that maybe someday I could be a good public servant like my father and grandfather. Maybe I could represent our islands in Congress like this man—Morris Udall of Arizona—I was lucky enough to meet. And I had love to keep me going.

I don't know why, but my family loved me enough to help me through my darkest days. Friends and mentors loved me enough to help me face the truth about myself. And when I did run for Congress, enough of you were willing to give me your trust and send me to Washington.

See MATTER on Page 13

Sanitizing abortion doesn't make it pro-growth

By KAITLYN BUSS
The Detroit News

Kaitlyn Buss is assistant editorial page editor at The Detroit News.

If you can't promise jobs, promise abortions. That seems to be the message from Michigan's leading women Democrats for the 2024 campaign.

If the way abortion rights drove young women to the polls in 2022 is any indication, it will turn out votes. But it's a very ironic growth strategy.

"We have to understand most people see this as a kitchen table issue," Michigan's Democratic Rep. Elissa Slotkin told PBS this week about abortion. "The decision about whether to have a child or not is the most profound kitchen table issue that we have. It's not separate from inflation, it's not separate from the economy."

"If you don't think abortion is about the economy you probably don't have a uterus," echoed Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who has made abortion rights the focal point of her second term, in an interview this week.

Moral offensiveness and vapidity aside, referring to what most parents consider the most important thing in their life, their kids, as "kitchen table issues," reveals a lack of awareness and relatability.

They have reduced having and raising children to be on the level with the decision to buy a car.

Yet at the same time they are concerned about the state's historically low population and workforce.

They seem to miss the connection between inputs and outputs.

What more natural way to grow Michigan's population than to enact pro-family, pro-child policies that make this state a place where people know their kids are valued, not dehumanized?

How much better would Michigan's economic future look if the 30,000 babies — a number equal to the population of Jackson — being aborted every year were carried to term and grew up to attend Michigan schools and settle in its communities?

The flip side of Whitmer trying to grow Michigan by vying for women who want to live in a state with a wide-open abortion environment is that the radical progressivism of her administration and approach to issues will likely chase out existing families who simply find it hostile to their values.

It was revealed Thursday the fertility rate in the United States is at a historic low—1.62 births per woman in 2023, according to federal data.

Michigan's fertility rate was approximately 1.57 in 2022 and is projected to decline to 1.39 by 2050, according to a new report from the Michigan Center for Data and Analytics.

The state's population is projected to increase by 2.3% through 2034 before slowly declining by 1.3%—or 128,000 people—from 2022 to 2050.

The major factor is the decline in births. In 2022, the birth rate in Michigan was about 10 live births for every 1,000 residents, a 22% drop in the birth rate from 2002.

There is little disagreement that such drastically waning birth and fertility rates will continue to negatively affect Michigan. That's precisely why Whitmer started a council on growing the population.

Whitmer, Slotkin and other Democrats who back Bidenomics don't seem to see the catch-22: Abort your kids because the economy that we have helped craft is so burdensome that you shouldn't want them anyway.

If growth is the objective, there's no surer way to add population than to help women who are considering an abortion keep their babies.

That's a much more rational solution than either Whitmer or Slotkin are willing to admit. But it requires viewing babies and kids as value-adds, not line-item costs.

MATTER

From page 12

Today, I want to thank those who gave me their love and guidance.

Those who have passed on: my father, Jesus Sablan, Bishop Tomas Camacho, former governor Pedro "Teno" Tenorio, Herman Q. Guerrero, Mitch Pangelinan, Manuel "Sheriff" Sablan, Ruth Tighe, Manuel "Ta Ne Kiyu" Villagomez, and Peter Michael "Mike Teno" Tenorio.

And, of course, those still with me: Andrea, my wife, and our children. My mother, Victorina, and my sisters and their families. Without their love I was lost.

So, that is my story. That is what I wanted to share with you today. Because today you are at the top of your game. Riding high on success. But tomorrow—or the next day—you will hit a wall. You will struggle. You will disappoint yourself. You will disappoint those you love the most, as I did. You will be afraid.

What I want you to remember—and this is why I told you my own embarrassing story of failure: No matter how deep the hole you are in, pull yourself up. And never, never be too afraid or embarrassed to ask for help.

No matter how bad it gets, how low you fall, people that love you are there to help. Just as the people who love you helped you graduate today.

So, get up. Take a deep breath. Dust yourself off. Move on.

And with help from loved ones, with faith in yourself and hope for the future, you will always have the power to change.

Congratulations, Class of 2024! Thank you for inviting me.

COURT

From page 12

money on veterans in similar situations. Rudisill's lawyers estimate that could include as many as 1.7 million veterans across the United States. Federal officials estimate the ruling will affect fewer than 30,000.

Whatever the number, the high court rightly says that GI Bill benefits must be paid to those who qualify. The VA already pays out more than $8 billion in education benefits yearly, so the ruling could cost the U.S. a lot of money.

But the money, while important, should be paid to honor the nation's obligations to its service members. Our military depends on volunteers to fill its ranks and the Pentagon is already struggling to meet its recruitment figures. What could happen if would-be soldiers learn the federal government will try to weasel out of promises made to those in uniform?

This country owes the best benefits possible to those who serve, and should be proud to pay them.

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Israel's Gaza war is horrific, but that doesn't mean Hamas is innocent of sexual violence

By ROBIN ABCARIAN
Los Angeles Times

Rape is a well-documented tool of war.

So it's hard for me to understand the raging controversy over whether Hamas terrorists who killed more than 1,100 Israelis on Oct. 7 also inflicted rape and other sexual crimes on their victims as a "practice."

If soldiers are depraved enough to tie families together and burn them, to behead corpses and kidnap helpless civilians, why, despite repeated denials from Hamas, would anyone think they would refrain from sexual violence?

There is general consensus that women were raped during the Oct. 7 attacks by Hamas militants, although many have questioned whether the sexualized violence was "systematic," as an explosive New York Times investigation put it in December, and have accused Israel of "weaponizing" rape allegations to justify its extreme response in Gaza.

A tremendous amount of journalistic energy has been devoted to debunking stories about the rape-related carnage of the Oct. 7 attacks. The Intercept ran a long and, in my view, misguided piece that tried to undercut the New York Times report, mainly by attacking one of the reporters, who had "liked" pro-Israel social media posts.

In February, the United Nations weighed in, finding "reasonable grounds to believe that conflict-related sexual violence occurred during the 7 October attacks in multiple locations across Gaza periphery, including rape and gang rape, in at least three locations."

Two widely circulated reports of rape and sexualized violence, the U.N. report noted, were misinterpretations by untrained observers. In one case, a first responder said a pregnant woman's baby had been cut out of her womb. As it turned out, the woman was not pregnant but had been disemboweled.

There is a sentiment in pro-Palestinian quarters that any accounting of Hamas' sexual atrocities is being used by Israel to gin up outrage to justify the destruction of Gaza and the killing of so many thousands of civilians. And that a wave of stories calling out feminist groups for failing to condemn the sexual crimes of Oct. 7 was orchestrated by the Israeli government.

An open letter signed by more than 1,000 feminists accused Israel of "a cynical attempt to incite public fury and deflect attention from the genocide it is perpetrating."

Last week in Santa Monica, I had coffee with two women from the Association of Rape Crisis Centers in Israel — Orit Sulitzeanu, the group's executive director, and Tanya Gilboa, its director of community relations. They were here to visit the pioneering Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center and to meet with the center's founder, Gail Abarbanel. They wanted to learn about how she has helped change laws in California, including ending the statute of limitations on rape.

Inevitably, our conversation turned to their recent report, "Silent Cry: Sexual Violence Crimes on October 7," and its conclusion that "sexual abuse was not an isolated incident or sporadic opportunistic case but rather a clear operational strategy."

Sulitzeanu vehemently rejected the idea that the report was part of an Israeli government plot to justify the destruction of Gaza and the death of thousands of Palestinian civilians.

"We see it as our mission to tell the story, to fight for this narrative, to explain the complexities and to tell the story of the victims who will never speak," she said. "We don't represent the country. We are in the human rights business."

As reports of sexual violence began flooding in, she and her colleagues decided they had a responsibility to compile all the information they were getting: "What happened, and how did it happen and where did it happen?" Their sources were local and international news reports, interviews with first responders and other professionals and, because of their unique position, lots of confidential information.

To be considered a "practice," Sulitzeanu said, a particular behavior — gang rape, rape in presence of family members, mutilation of sexual organs — had to have been reliably reported taking place at least three different times.

There is a lack of forensic evidence of sexual violence on Oct. 7, but that has been plausibly explained: In the chaos that followed the attacks, the imperative was to identify slain victims and bury them as soon as possible in accordance with Jewish tradition. Rape kits, which generally are effective for only 72 hours after an assault, were never going to be a viable way of collecting evidence.

But there are abundant reports from people who witnessed sexual violence. And while Sulitzeanu said she believes there are dozens of actual rape survivors, she has not made an attempt to find them because to do so would violate her principles and the Murad Code, a global voluntary code of ethics and conduct for those who interview and work with survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. It was developed by Nadia Murad, an Iraqi-born Yazidi human rights activist who was kept as an Islamic State sex slave for three months in 2014, and who won a Nobel Peace Prize in 2018.

"Horrific things happened, people are embarrassed, people don't want to share," said Sulitzeanu, who was deluged with requests from reporters around the world to produce victims for interviews.

"Usually, I am very patient and I understand what a journalist needs," she said. "But sometimes I became very angry. I said to them, 'Why do you think a survivor should talk to you?' A survivor who has suffered the most terrible trauma ever has to heal. It will take her weeks, months, years."

So far, only one survivor of alleged sexual assault, a freed hostage, has stepped forward to tell her story. Amit Soussana, a 40-year-old Israeli lawyer who was held for 55 days, told the New York Times she was beaten and sexually assaulted while in captivity. She was also interviewed by Sheryl Sandberg for the documentary "Screams Before Silence," which focused on accounts of sexual assault by Hamas.

The focus of the world right now is rightfully on the horrific conditions in Gaza and the suffering of its civilian population and Israel's human rights abuses. But to minimize the trauma that Hamas inflicted on Oct. 7, including reports of sexual violence, is to forswear one's very humanity.

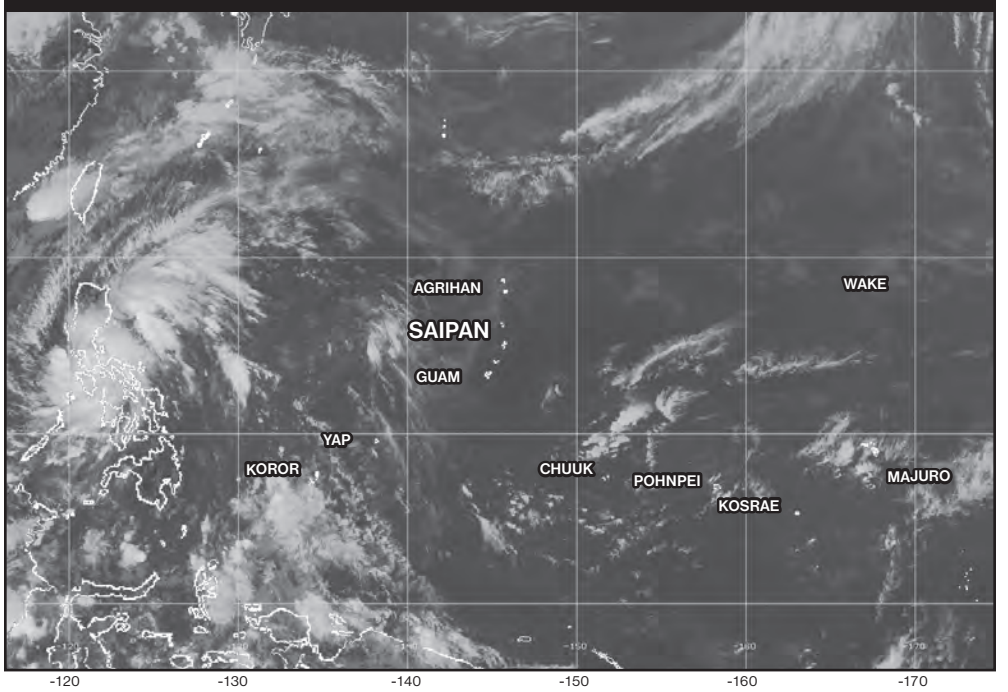
As Sulitzeanu told me, "How can I be a human being if I only see one side?"

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East wind 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East wind 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East wind 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East wind 10 to 15 mph.
89° 79°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:08 AM SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

ASCAT Analysis indicates a weak surface trough is just moving into the far northern Mariana Islands. Satellite shows patchy clouds near and northeast of Saipan, and patchy clouds were also just west of Guam. Local airports report gentle trade winds, and combined seas are running 4 to 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Palau	Cloudy	85° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	88° / 80°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Wednesday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:42 AM	10:18 PM
Tuesday	-	9:44 AM	11:09 PM
Wednesday	-	10:45 AM	11:56 PM
Thursday	-	11:44 AM	5:48 AM
Friday	12:39 AM	12:41 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	66° / 57°
Beijing	Fair	80° / 54°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	81° / 76°
Honolulu	Showers	86° / 74°
London	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 50°
Los Angeles	Sunny	66° / 55°
Manila	Light Rain	89° / 78°
Melbourne	Showers	59° / 46°
Miami	Sunny	84° / 76°
New York	Showers in the Vicinity	78° / 65°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	80° / 59°
Paris	Cloudy	68° / 48°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 57°
Rome	Rain	66° / 57°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	95° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 52°
Seoul	Cloudy	77° / 63°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	77° / 66°
Washington, DC	Light Rain with Thunder	87° / 69°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:32 AM	Low Tide	1.56
8:43 AM	High Tide	1.92
4:30 PM	Low Tide	-0.25
-	-	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 7, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:40AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Island Snapshots

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMI Council of the Tau Gamma Phi collected more than 10 bags of trash in a recent beach cleanup. The fraternity, led by its grand triskelion Agah Sapo and deputy GT Gervy Samson has been doing various projects for the community. Founded in the Philippines more than 50 years ago, the TGH Saipan chapter cleaned the beach across Atkins Kroll Toyota to 13 Fishermen Monument.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PHI Pharmacy is a Trustees Club Silver Sponsor for the upcoming Joeten Memorial Golf Classic, set for July 6, 2024 at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. PHI staff presents JMGC committee with a donation of $5,000 which will benefit the Joeten Daidai Foundation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chris Bernardo and Fernan Calayag give out free Coca-Cola and Foremost drinks during a recent promotion activity at the Joeten Hafadai Shopping Center in Garapan.

US NATIONAL GUARD

Palau President Surangel S. Whipps, Jr., right, and First Lady Valerie R. Whipps identify a landmark one mile away, shown by U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brian Enderes using optics in a Guam National Guard UH-70 Lakota helicopter, Guam, May 10, 2024. The Republic of Palau recently entered a new State Partnership Program with the Guam Guard, where both islands will share knowledge and capabilities in maritime border security, disaster response, search and rescue, and more.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Board of Directors

PUBLIC NOTICE AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular meeting on Thursday, May 30, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered, and public attendance is welcome.

I. Preliminary Matters
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda*
  D. Adoption of Minutes
    I. April 25, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
    II. May 3, 2024 Special Board Meeting
  E. Correspondence
II. Management Report
  A. Executive Director's Report
  B. Chief Financial Officer's Report
  C. Legal Counsel's Report
III. Old Business
  A. Update on Executive Director Position
  B. Proposed New Classification and Compensation System
  C. CUC Drug Policy
  D. Personnel Matters
IV. New Business
  A. Personnel Appeal
V. Public Comments*
VI. Executive Session**
VII. Announcement
VIII. Adjournment

_____/s/_____
JANICE A. TENORIO
CHAIRWOMAN, CUC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.
** All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, to consult with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for: CPA-RFP-004-24

- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-01
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-02
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-03
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-04
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-05
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-06

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of six (6) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-004-24 is **May 20, 2024,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024,** at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
Request for Proposals
for: CPA-RFP-006-24

CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-11
CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-12
CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-13

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-006-24 is **May 20, 2024,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024,** at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for: CPA-RFP-005-24

CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-07
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-08
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-09
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-10

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of four (4) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-005-24 is **May 20, 2024,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024,** at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HANMI celebrates Marianas Tourism Month with cleanups

HANMI

To mark Marianas Tourism Month, students of Brilliant Star Montessori School join employees of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in conducting a cleanup at Micro Beach in Garapan on May 20, 2024. The cleanup was also supported by the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

HANMI

To mark Marianas Tourism Month, employees of Pacific Islands Club Saipan conduct a cleanup at Pakpak Beach in San Antonio on May 20, 2024. The cleanup was also supported by the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

To mark Marianas Tourism Month, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands conducted a beach cleanup on Monday, May 20, at two locations on Saipan.

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan was joined by students of Brilliant Star Montessori School in a cleanup at Micro Beach in Garapan, while staff of Pacific Islands Club Saipan cleaned Pakpak Beach in San Antonio.

"Enjoying the Marianas' beautiful nature is one of the top activities visitors look forward to when they visit, so it's important to keep our island home clean for both ourselves and our guests. Most especially, we were happy to work with students on this week's effort," said HANMI board secretary and Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan general manager Clayton Darlington. "With proper enforcement of the Anti-litter Act and everyone taking personal responsibility for their trash, it would create a great opportunity to turn our attention and resources to other types of beautification projects in the future that will enhance our island home for all."

The cleanup was also supported by Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

HANMI is also marking Marianas Tourism Month with sponsorship of and participation in the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival, which will have its final night this Saturday, May 25, at American Memorial Park. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP24-CHCC/WIC-014
(REANNOUNCEMENT)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 7TH, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – BANGLADESHI INTERPRETER

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1178 Hinemlu' St., Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

WIC CNMI

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is now accepting Vendor Applications for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

All interested vendors may pick up an application packet at the CNMI WIC Program Administration Office located on Upper Navy Hill, 11546 Isla Drive. The application acceptance period is from May 1, 2024 through June 14, 2024, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or vendors may request for an application through email at fabian.ulloa@chcc.health.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program Administration Office no later than 4:00 pm, June 14, 2024.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information packet provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to Fabian M. Ulloa, WIC Program Coordinator, at (670) 664-4067 or (670) 285-4073 or by email at fabian.ulloa@chcc.health.

PO BOX 502509, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 664-4067 Fax: (670) 664-4069
USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN)

ACCOUNTANT

Delta Management Corporation, which operates 5 Shell Branded Gas Stations and Convenience Stores is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Accountant. Successful applicants will act as the main point of contact between the company and vendors, partners and other external parties, ensuring smooth communication and coordination. Must be proficient with QuickBooks, NAV, Microsoft Excel and Word programs and be flexible, adaptable and work in a fast-paced environment.

The successful candidate must be organized, trustworthy, able to work on a team and have a great attitude.

- Demonstrate understanding of accounting controls and principles.
- Review financial statements for accuracy and compliance.
- Generate weekly cash position reports.
- Responsible for accurately reviewing payroll data and entering it into QuickBooks.
- Responsible for accurate auditing of daily sales reports for service stations
- Responsible for monthly sales summary reports and fuel reconciliation.
- Review and provide deposit reconciliation and create cash flow projections.
- Adhere to and meet reporting deadlines.
- Prepare Monthly BGRT reports and other tax and compliance reports.
- Must have thorough analytical skills for the reconciliation of fleet cards and credit card transactions.

On-island reference & police clearance required.

E-mail resume to: islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com

WIC CNMI
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS
GIVE YOUR FAMILY A HEALTHY START
How can WIC help my family?
Nutrition counseling
Breastfeeding support
Healthy foods
Referrals
Who is eligible?
Pregnant/Breastfeeding/Postpartum women (up to 1 year)
Infants
Children under the age of five (5)
Meet nutritional risk and financial guidelines. (See table below)
A pregnant woman is considered two (2) family members!
WIC Income Eligibility Table by Family Size (Effective May 1, 2024)
Family members in household | Yearly household income | Monthly household income | Twice-Monthly household income | Bi-Weekly household income | Weekly household income
1 | $27,861 | $2,322 | $1,161 | $1,072 | $536
2 | 37,814 | 3,152 | 1,576 | 1,455 | 728
3 | 47,767 | 3,981 | 1,991 | 1,838 | 919
4 | 57,720 | 4,810 | 2,405 | 2,220 | 1,110
5 | 67,673 | 5,640 | 2,820 | 2,603 | 1,302
6 | 77,626 | 6,469 | 3,235 | 2,986 | 1,493
7 | 87,579 | 7,299 | 3,650 | 3,369 | 1,685
8 | 97,532 | 8,128 | 4,064 | 3,752 | 1,876
Each additional member add | +$9,953 | +$830 | +$415 | +$383 | +$192
Note: All WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines are based on GROSS income, meaning before taxes or other deductions. A person or certain family members who participate in other benefit programs, such as the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) or Medicaid, automatically meet the income requirement.
Call us at (670) 664-4084 or (670) 236-8741 to make an appointment!
www.chcc.health
This AD is funded by USDA 202424W100347
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Green Meadow School hosts successful Parent Summit

Green Meadow School proudly hosted its annual Parent Summit on May 20, 2024, at the Royal Taga Hall in the Saipan World Resort. The event, which began at 5pm, aimed to provide parents with valuable resources and insights into supporting their children's educational and mental well-being.

The summit featured notable guest speakers, including Evelyn Pangelinan from CHCC's Community Guidance Center-System of Care office. Pangelinan delivered an enlightening presentation on "Mental Health 101," offering parents essential information on recognizing and addressing mental health concerns in their children and themselves.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Tai Doram, affectionately known as "Coach Tai," captivated the audience with a heartfelt and inspiring talk titled "You Are Not Alone." Doram's wise advice and encouragement resonated deeply with the parents, emphasizing the importance of community support and resilience.

In addition to the insightful presentations, the event included a variety of engaging activities organized by the assistant principals and PTSA officers. The assistant principals prepared an engaging ice breaker; parents gathered in groups around pictures of animals they believe represented their personality and traits, new relationships and friendships were formed as parents shared what they felt they had in common. The activity prepared by the PTSA officers asked parents to look to the future of the school asking them what their expectations for the new school year are and how they can contribute to achieving them.

A highlight of the evening was the surprise raffle conducted by the dedicated staff of Green Meadow School. The raffle added an element of excitement and fun to the summit, leaving attendees with smiles and a sense of camaraderie.

The school board presented a certificate of appreciation and recognition for the efforts of all the PTSA representatives that evening.

Principal Milagros Songcuan expressed her gratitude to all the speakers, organizers, and attendees for making the Parent Summit a resounding success. The evening was closed out by PTSA president Marvin Buston.

Green Meadow School remains committed to fostering strong partnerships with parents and the community to ensure the best possible educational experience for its students.

For more information about Green Meadow School, call (670) 235-2185, by email info@greenmeadowschool.net for inquiries or visit their main campus in Chalan Kiya past Saipan Health Clinic. ***(PR)***

GMS

Green Meadow School principal Milagros Songcuan thanks participants of the Parents Summit held last May Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

GMS

Green Meadow School PTSA president Marvin Buston makes his remarks.

GMS

Green Meadow School PTSA vice president Dr. Tai Doram served as the Parents Summit's keynote speaker.

GMS

The Parents Summit provided parents with valuable resources and insights into supporting their children's educational and mental well-being.

GMS

Parents of Green Meadow School students pose after a group activity.

GMS

Green Meadow School PTSA representatives pose for a group photo.

WANTED: CORRESPONDENTS

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

is looking for correspondents.

Qualifications:

- Passion for writing
- Always wants to be in the know
- Has a nose for news
- Comfortable with interviewing people
- Team player

Perks

- Not a boring 9am - 5pm job
- You'll meet a lot of people
- You'll learn (almost) everything under the sun
- A job in journalism also opens doors to bigger and better things

No writing work experience? We are willing to train!
Email your application and résumé to Akira Kadokura at akira_kadokura@tanholdings.com or drop them off at the HR office on the second floor of the JP Center building in Garapan, Saipan.

PSS

Students and staff of Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School are joined by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, Rota Mayor Aubrey Hocog, Sen. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota), members of the Guam Visitors Bureau, and some members of media and social media influencers.

'Get educated, come back, and serve your community'

ROTA—Students of Rota's Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School, joined by sixth grade students of Sinapalo Elementary School, held their annual youth summit last May 17. The summit, initiated by the school's Youth Advisory Panel, saw presentations and activities designed to improve the school climate, elevate students' voices, and increase after-high school readiness.

The youth summit was initiated in 2008 as a flagship program of the Youth Advisory Panel under the Office of the Commissioner of Education.

This year's largest gathering saw the participation of the chief state school superintendent, Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, who, along with all the other speakers, gave the students the opportunity to be part of the discussion as they listened to life experiences different from their own but are essential to building their leadership skills, and ultimately, will guide them in their future choices.

The daylong summit on May 17, held within the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School campus, included presentations by various clubs, organizations and PSS programs. They were by AmeriCorps on Team Building, Youth Advisory Panel-Healthy Eating, YAP-Making Right Choices, Asian Invasion-Team Building, STUCO-Team Building, YAP-Education and Career Success, JROTC-Team Building, Healthy Relationship, National Honor Society-Team Building, Digital Citizenship, Budgeting, Mental Wellbeing, Natural Helpers (Saipan)-Team Building, Elvira Mesngon-Team Building, YAP Sinapalo Elementary School-Team Building, Division of Youth Services-Team Building, Sources of Strength OR Patch (Saipan), and Project Prom.

They were also joined by Rota Mayor Aubrey Hocog, the first student representative to the Board of Education, Sen. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota), and visiting members of the Guam Visitors Bureau on a familiarization tour to the island and accompanied by members of the media and social media influencers.

PSS

A group of students perform as part of the event activities.

Camacho gave Rota's students a glimpse of his past. He shared his life's journey, and how the importance of education can help share one's attitude and behavior towards life.

"I was told at an early age that it is important to get educated, that I needed to go to school to learn many things in life, and to eventually succeed in everything that I do. It was my grandfather—an old man who never received education during the Japanese period—who encouraged me to focus on my future and that started by going to school to learn," Commissioner of Education Dr. Camacho said in his remarks before the island's more than 300 students, from 6th to 12th grade.

"I took to heart what he told me. Like a little kid from the community of San Roque in Saipan, I studied hard. My grandfather was right: go beyond and dream big."

The education chief's grandfather is Gregorio T. Camacho, the first commissioner of San Roque Village on Saipan and the first Parent-Teacher Association president of San Roque Elementary School, which was later renamed in honor of his late grandfather.

Camacho believes that Rota's public school students are the island's future and education will always be key to success.

"Get educated. Go beyond what you can learn by exploring what education can provide and give you. Then come back home and serve the community," he told the Rota students.

PSS

RHI students interact with speakers, guests, and Education Commissioner Dr. Camacho during the summit.

"Your education leaders, me included, your school principals, classroom teachers, counselor, librarian and everyone in this community will continue to work together to make sure that our school, Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. Sr. High School and Sinapalo Elementary School, and all other schools on Tinian and Saipan, will continue to deliver that quality education."

The education chief added, "The future that I see in you is what drives us your educators and supporters of public education.

Camacho reiterated that the school district continues to implement initiatives and programs that cater to the growing need of students for their after-high school choices. These include Career and Technical Education-related program curriculum that is being taught early, some in middle school and in high school, and the Cooperative Education Program, that allows early workforce exposure through on-the-job training for high school students, among others.

"Your PSS leaders, with the support of the Board of Education, will continue to provide the support needed by our students. And, as PSS students, you are going to be designing your future and the future of this beautiful island." ***(PR)***

PSS

Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho extols Rota's public school students to "continue learning and come back to serve the Rota community."

PSS

The members of the Youth Advisory Panel of Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School and the various presenters of the Youth Summit are joined by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho at the conclusion of the daylong May 17 summit.

Life & Style

Morgan Spurlock, who skewered fast food industry, dies at 53

NEW YORK (AP)—Documentary filmmaker Morgan Spurlock, an Oscar nominee whose most famous works skewered America's food industry and who notably ate only at McDonald's for a month to illustrate the dangers of a fast-food diet, has died. He was 53.

Spurlock died Thursday in New York from complications of cancer, according to a statement issued Friday by his family.

"It was a sad day, as we said goodbye to my brother Morgan," Craig Spurlock, who worked with him on several projects, said in the statement. "Morgan gave so much through his art, ideas, and generosity. The world has lost a true creative genius and a special man. I am so proud to have worked together with him."

Spurlock made a splash in 2004 with his groundbreaking film "Super Size Me," which was nominated for an Academy Award. The film chronicled the detrimental physical and psychological effects of Spurlock eating only McDonald's food for 30 days. He gained about 25 pounds, saw a spike in his cholesterol and lost his sex drive.

AP

Morgan Spurlock poses at the Los Angeles premiere of his film "Super Size Me," Thursday night, April 22, 2004, in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

"Everything's bigger in America," he said in the film. "We've got the biggest cars, the biggest houses, the biggest companies, the biggest food, and finally: the biggest people."

In one scene, Spurlock showed kids a photo of George Washington and none recognized the Founding Father. But they all instantly knew the mascots for Wendy's and McDonald's.

The film grossed more than $22 million on a $65,000 budget and preceded the release of Eric Schlosser's influential "Fast Food Nation," which accused the industry of being bad for the environment and rife with labor issues.

Spurlock returned in 2017 with "Super Size Me 2: Holy Chicken!"—a sober look at an industry that processes 9 billion animals a year in America. He focused on two issues: chicken farmers stuck in a peculiar financial system and the attempt by fast-food chains to deceive customers into thinking they're eating healthier.

"We're at an amazing moment in history from a consumer standpoint where consumers are starting to have more and more power," he told The Associated Press in 2019. "It's not about return for the shareholders. It's about return for the consumers."

Nicki Minaj's England concert postponed after rapper detained by Dutch authorities over pot

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—Nicki Minaj's concert in Manchester scheduled for Saturday night was postponed after police in the Netherlands discovered marijuana in her bags as she was preparing to leave the country.

Promoter Live Nation said the performance will be rescheduled and tickets will be honored.

"Despite Nicki's best efforts to explore every possible avenue to make tonight's show happen, the events of today have made it impossible," the promoter said in a statement. "We are deeply disappointed by the inconvenience this has caused."

AP

Nicki Minaj arrives at the MTV Video Music Awards on Sept. 12, 2023, at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J.

Minaj tweeted earlier Saturday that she was stopped at the Amsterdam airport as she was about to board a plane for the concert in Manchester. Police told her they found marijuana in her bags, and it would have to be weighed, she tweeted. Cannabis is illegal in the Netherlands, but it is tolerated for recreational use.

Robert Van Kapel, a spokesperson for the Netherlands military police, said a 41-year-old American woman had been arrested for exporting "soft drugs." He did not identify the woman or elaborate on the type of drugs in question. Police later tweeted that they fined the woman and released her.

Prosecutors in Weinstein's NY case cry foul over defense lawyer's comments

Prosecutors in New York have accused Harvey Weinstein's lead defense lawyer of making public statements intended to intimidate a potential witness ahead of the fallen movie mogul's retrial and asked a judge to take action.

The Manhattan district attorney's office sent a letter to the trial judge Thursday criticizing comments made by lawyer Arthur Aidala outside of court on May 1, urging the judge to instruct the defense team "not to make public statements discussing or disparaging potential witnesses in the future."

New York's highest court last month threw out Weinstein's 2020 rape conviction, ruling that the trial judge unfairly allowed testimony against him based on allegations that weren't part of the case. In that landmark #MeToo trial, Weinstein was convicted of rape in the third degree for an attack on an aspiring actress in 2013 and of forcing himself on a TV and film production assistant, Miriam Haley, in 2006.

Weinstein, 72, has maintained his innocence.

Speaking to reporters about the case after Weinstein's first court appearance following the decision, Aidala said he believes Haley lied to the jury about her motive in coming forward, which prosecutors rebut. He said his team planned an aggressive cross-examination on the issue "if she dares to come and show her face here."

Haley, who did not attend the court hearing, had said days earlier she was weighing whether to testify again at a retrial.

Aidala declined to comment Friday.

Assistant District Attorney Nicole Blumberg, in the letter to Justice Curtis Farber, said the defense attorney violated state rules of professional conduct and "knowingly disregarded his professional and ethical obligations." ***(AP)***

Relative reveals sordid story to prevent wedding

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of three years recently proposed. The issue is he's the great-nephew of the man who jilted my great-aunt at the altar in the 1970s. My aunt dated his great-uncle for financial reasons, which she has admitted. She tried to ensure he would stay with her by "baby trapping" him and telling him he had to marry her. He agreed until the day arrived -- and he didn't show.

This shouldn't be important to the current situation because it was decades ago, and I barely know my great-aunt. She didn't even know my fiance's name until the most recent family reunion when I mentioned our engagement and my soon-to-be last name. She freaked out and demanded he leave her house! She told me not to marry him, and said his family was all the same.

I don't like my great-aunt much, but after this controversy, her children and her siblings are threatening to shun me if I marry him. The wedding is in five months, and I'm torn. Family is important to me, and while I'm not close to her, I made it a mission to be closer to her kids (my cousins) and relatives as I grew older. I know what happened to her hurt her a lot, but I feel her demand is outrageous. What should I do? Should I postpone the wedding?

PAST DRAMA IN THE PRESENT

DEAR PAST DRAMA: Let me get this straight. Your aunt tried to trap a young man into marriage by claiming she was having his child. Did she have the baby, and was the father's paternity ever established? If your fiance's uncle got wind of the fact that he was being falsely accused and that your aunt not only didn't love him but was after him for financial gain, who can blame him for running? I certainly don't.

The decision you now must make is whether you want to break an engagement to your fiance (whom I presume you know well and love after three years) or cave in to the emotional blackmail of your ethically challenged aunt. I know what I would do. This may be your chance to "break the curse."

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: After a social occasion, I come home and obsess about what I did or didn't say. Did I act appropriately? I worry and keep doing these "reviews" in my head. It's painful. The social occasion can be lunch with a friend, a phone call or a party. I've done this for years, and it's exhausting. Why do I do this? More to the point, how can I stop?

REPLAYING IN ARIZONA

DEAR REPLAYING: While I am not allowed to diagnose an illness in any state of the Union, speaking as a "talented" amateur, it seems you have a nasty case of social anxiety. A licensed psychotherapist can help to lessen the obsessive thinking that is torturing you. Your doctor or health insurance company can refer you.

■■■■

DEAR READERS: Along with the millions of Americans who are observing this Memorial Day, I add my own prayer of thanks for those courageous men and women who have sacrificed their lives in service to our country. May they rest in peace.

LOVE, ABBY

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

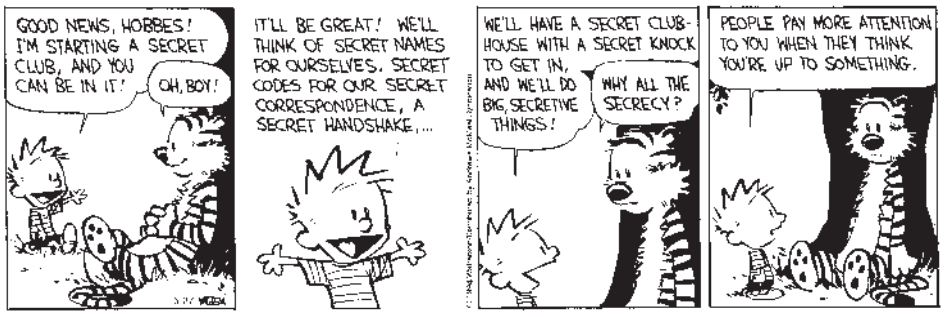
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

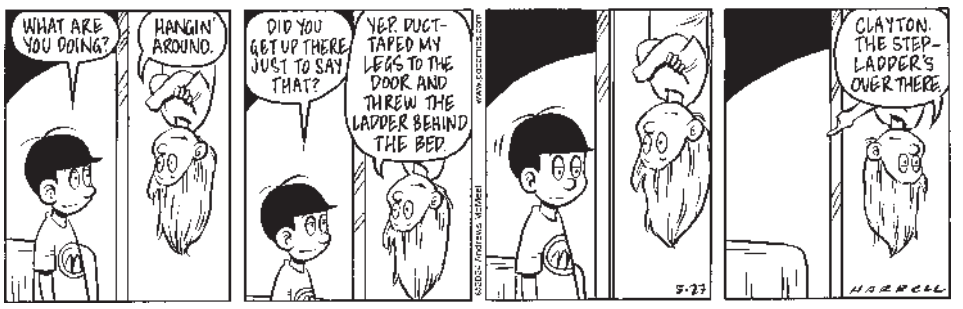

GOOD NEWS, HOBBES! I'M STARTING A SECRET CLUB, AND YOU CAN BE IN IT!
OH, BOY!
IT'LL BE GREAT! WE'LL THINK OF SECRET NAMES FOR OURSELVES. SECRET CODES FOR OUR SECRET CORRESPONDENCE, A SECRET HANDSHAKE, ...
WE'LL HAVE A SECRET CLUBHOUSE WITH A SECRET KNOCK TO GET IN, AND WE'LL DO BIG, SECRETIVE THINGS!
WHY ALL THE SECRECY?
PEOPLE PAY MORE ATTENTION TO YOU WHEN THEY THINK YOU'RE UP TO SOMETHING.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

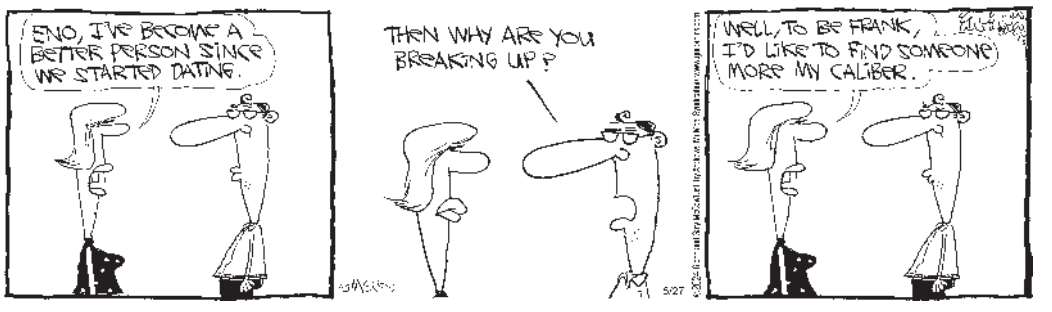
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HANGIN' AROUND.
DID YOU GET UP THERE JUST TO SAY THAT?
YEP. DUCT-TAPED MY LEGS TO THE DOOR AND THREW THE LADDER BEHIND THE BED.
CLAYTON. THE STEP-LADDER'S OVER THERE.
HARNELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


ENO, I'VE BECOME A BETTER PERSON SINCE WE STARTED DATING.
THEN WHY ARE YOU BREAKING UP?
WELL, TO BE FRANK, I'D LIKE TO FIND SOMEONE MORE MY CALIBER.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 — Kippur
4 "Va-moose!"
9 Zodiac animal
12 Continent north of Afr.
13 Wear down
14 "Xanadu" band
15 Michelle Obama's alma mater
17 Cattle call
18 Play-wright Levin
19 More active
21 Croquet stick
24 Utopia
25 Ginger —
26 Hanoi holiday
28 Church keyboard
31 Cab
33 —/her/hers
35 Suit to —
36 Big gulps
38 Ordinal suffix
40 Man-mouse link
41 Chris of "The Good Wife"
43 Is unable to
45 Academic goal
47 Shade
48 Scrap
49 Cemetery at which Memorial Day ceremonies are held
54 Amnesty Intl., e.g.
55 Signified
56 Director DuVernay
57 Sean, to Yoko
58 Goes caroling
59 Slugger's need

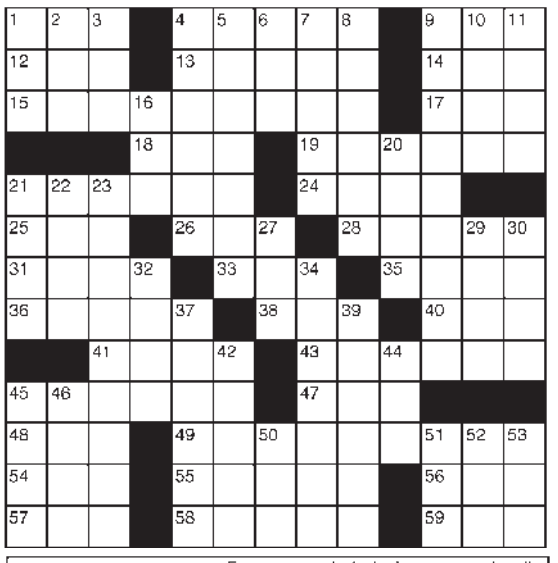
DOWN

1 "You betcha!!"
2 "— Town"
3 Hosp. scan
4 Under wraps
5 Invents
6 Non-sense
7 Photo-shop maker
8 Ricky Martin's former band
9 Steele on '80s TV
10 Skin soother
11 Heath
16 Goose egg
20 Crime lab fluids
21 Yoga class pads
22 "There oughta be —!"
23 Kentucky city
27 Common article
29 Prefix with plane or space
30 Spruced up
32 Mr. Stravinsky
34 Dürer work
37 Cooks, as dumplings
39 Hangouts
42 Whitesnake's "— Go Again"
44 Pos. opposite
45 Dresses in
46 Therefore
50 PC linking system
51 Bar bill
52 Eggs
53 D.C. baseballer

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	O	L		C	B	S		S	O	R	T	A
S	N	I		L	E	A		A	L	I	A	S
P	O	L		A	L	M	O	N	D	O	I	L
I	N	A		P	I	O	U	S				
C	O	C	O		Γ	S	C		S	Γ	R	A
			R	A	D		H	O	T	O	I	L
A	G	A	I	N				L	E	N	D	L
B	I	G	O	I	L		R	E	E			
C	L	A	N		O	V	O		P	C	O	N
			A	H	I	S	L		D	U	L	
S	T	R	I	K	F	O	I		G	N	P	
C	H	I	I		I	F	O		A	C	A	
H	E	M	E	N		A	R	I		R	E	L

Last Friday's answer 5-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chris Colfer, 34; Shanola Hampton, 47; Jack McBrayer, 51; Paul Bettany, 53.

Happy Birthday: Take pride in your work, and concentrate on what's important. Where you put your energy will make a difference to your physiological attitude. Being satisfied with who you are and what your actions should be will determine how far you go. Let your creativity shine through, and you will find exciting ways to use your talents to accomplish your goals. Make learning a priority. Your numbers are 4, 13, 18, 23, 24, 31, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Pay attention, get your facts straight and think twice before you let your emotions turn to anger. You'll get better results if you put your energy into self-improvement, doing your best to get ahead and putting the past behind you. Display your talents, and opportunities will develop. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't fear change; embrace what life offers and enjoy the ride. Don't complain, get involved and make changes that improve what concerns you. Change begins with you, and the satisfaction you gain from being the one to make a difference will boost your ego. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Apply pressure where necessary and make things happen. Taking control of things will save you time and ensure you get the best results. Be open to suggestions, but apply only what's applicable and within budget. Change begins with you, and handling matters from start to finish is in your best interest. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Ask questions, search for alternatives and move forward. Persistence will pay off and encourage others to pitch in and help. A relationship will experience a shift, but in the end, it will be to your benefit. Use your imagination and experience, and do what's best for you. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take a wait-and-see approach, and you'll dodge having to backtrack. Pay more attention to health, fitness, and looking and feeling your best. Make romance a priority, and invest in meaningful relationships that make you feel comfortable and secure. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Consider the path of least resistance and head in that direction. Don't limit what you can accomplish or waste time trying to pursue the impossible. Put your energy into educating yourself in areas that can help you make better decisions, and an opportunity will come to you. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* An outlet for excess energy will help you make the most of your day. Anger solves nothing, so don't embark on something that could hold you back. Self-improvement is your best choice and will bring the highest returns. Invest in yourself and do what makes you happy. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Use your imagination to design the best way to use your talents to bring your ideas to life. Make a change that offers the adventure you desire and the mental stimulation to promote chasing knowledge. Take the initiative to seize the moment. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Follow your intuition and desires regarding affairs of the heart. Be open and receptive to new possibilities instead of holding on to or living in the past. Opportunities are apparent, but you must take advantage of what's available to you to enjoy the benefits. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Devise a plan that works for you, and don't hesitate to follow through. You can't please everyone, but it's time to do what's best for you. Take the road that offers freedom to fulfill your dreams. Missed opportunities will lead to anger, not solutions. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Mixed emotions will lead to confusion. Clear up any misconception by being direct. Ask questions, assess the situation, and take the path that makes you feel good about yourself and whatever you decide to pursue. It's up to you to make the transition. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Work incognito to accomplish the most. Focus on exploring and expanding your intentions to improve your finances, health and personal life. Discipline will pay off and encourage positive change. Listen to your heart. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are optimistic, aggressive and hardworking. You are innovative and persistent.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4	8		5		
4	9		3	6	5		2	7
3		8			2		6	4
1	4	7						
	8	3		2	7		1	
	6		5		1			8
	3				4			
		5		7	6	2		
6	7			9	3		8	

Difficulty: ★ 5/27

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

7	6	1	4	8	9	3	5	2
8	5	9	3	2	7	1	4	6
4	2	3	1	5	6	7	9	8
3	7	8	5	1	2	9	6	4
6	1	5	9	4	3	2	8	7
2	9	4	6	7	8	5	1	3
9	4	7	8	3	1	6	2	5
5	3	6	2	9	4	8	7	1
1	8	2	7	6	5	4	3	9

Difficulty: ★★★★ 5/24

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THE FOREHEAD Solution: 7 letters

L	B	N	S	T	A	H	T	F	I	L	C	R	D	F
L	O	E	L	W	R	I	N	K	L	E	S	N	R	S
A	D	R	A	S	O	F	T	U	N	T	U	O	K	M
I	Y	V	T	I	A	R	K	O	U	O	N	I	M	O
C	L	E	I	N	N	S	B	P	R	T	N	T	A	O
A	A	S	B	U	O	R	I	E	S	O	N	A	S	T
F	N	T	R	S	A	C	G	I	Y	U	V	C	S	H
A	G	R	O	I	N	N	R	D	A	E	H	I	A	A
L	U	O	N	I	I	E	T	O	I	H	Z	N	G	I
L	A	N	S	L	C	E	S	N	T	E	U	U	E	R
E	G	G	E	E	M	C	S	H	W	O	M	M	C	L
B	E	E	D	P	A	E	N	C	A	O	M	M	A	I
A	F	I	L	L	E	R	I	S	E	P	R	O	F	N
L	N	E	P	R	E	S	S	U	R	E	E	C	V	E
G	S	E	N	S	A	T	I	O	N	W	O	R	F	E

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Acne, Body Language, Bone, Brain, Communication, Crown, Eyebrows, Face, Facial, Feeling, Filler, Front, Frown, Glabella, Hairline, Hats, Head, Human, Lift, Massage, Motor Control, Move, Nerves, Nose, Orbital, Pressure, Receding, Rise, Round, Scalp, Sensation, Shape, Sinciput, Sinus, Size, Skin, Skull, Smooth, Soft, Strong, Temples, Veins, Wrinkles

Last Friday's answer : Design

The NEW **Volume 77** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Holiday's finishing flurry helps Celtics beat Pacers for 3-0 lead in East finals

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Jrue Holiday didn't feel well all day. He even missed the team's morning shootaround.

When it mattered most, though, the Celtics guard looked just fine.

Holiday converted a three-point play with 38.9 seconds left to give Boston its first lead in nearly 36 minutes, followed that with the game-saving steal and then clinched the 114-111 victory at Indiana with two free throws Saturday night to give Celtics a commanding 3-0 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

The Celtics overcame an 18-point deficit in the second half and can earn their second NBA Finals trip in three years with another win Monday at Indiana.

"I'm all right, had a fever, slept a lot. But I feel OK," Holiday said. "I just made a play (at the end). He's a great player, had a great game. I just made a play."

Holiday finished with 14 points, five in the final 39 seconds, and had nine rebounds on a night that, at times, he appeared to be under the weather. Afterward, though, he sounded like himself and felt well enough to balance his children on his lap.

As Holiday struggled to find his footing, Boston's other players got the job done.

Jayson Tatum matched his playoff career high with 36 points and had 10 rebounds and eight assists. Jaylen Brown added 24 points, and 37-year-old Al Horford had 23 points and was 7-of-12 on 3-pointers.

But it was Holiday's late-game heroics that silenced Indiana's raucous crowd and kept Boston a perfect 5-0 on the road in this season's playoffs.

"I'm glad we got him, Jrue's a hell of a competitor," Tatum said. "Obviously, he's won a championship. For him to come out here and put it all on the line for us and come up with a big play to win the game, we've got a hell of a team."

The Pacers were already facing a formidable road back in this series—even before they learned All-NBA guard Tyrese Haliburton would not play in Game 3 because of a left hamstring injury. It's not clear if he'll be available for Game 4, either.

AP

Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) celebrates during the second half of Game 3 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals against the Indiana Pacers, Saturday, May 25, 2024, in Indianapolis.

Still, the Pacers refused to break.

Andrew Nembhard led the Pacers with a career-high 32 points before Holiday stole the ball from him with 3.3 seconds remaining. T.J. McConnell finished with 23 points, nine rebounds and six assists, while Myles Turner and Pascal Siakam each had 22 points. Turner also had 10 rebounds.

Indiana had a chance to force overtime but Aaron Nesmith's 3-pointer was off the mark.

As well as the Pacers played, scoring 69 points in the first half, twice taking 18-point leads and still holding a 107-99 advantage with three minutes to go against the NBA's top team, it was clear the Pacers missed having Haliburton on the court.

"Courageous. Our guys played a great game," coach Rick Carlisle said. "We came up a little short tonight, but we will be back Monday and we will be punching even harder."

Still, a sellout crowd decked primarily in gold checkered flag shirts featuring dozens of individual stamps of Indiana's state outline and filled with actors here for the Indianapolis 500 weekend celebration, helped energize the Pacers as they had through the first playoff home games, all wins.

But Holiday's finishing flurry—a big layup, the go-ahead free throw, the defensive play of the game and two free throws to seal it with 1.1 left—quieted the crowd on a wild night.

Indiana built an 18-point lead midway through the second quarter and matched that margin again midway through the third. The second time, Boston used a series of Indiana turnovers to spur a 13-4 spurt that got them within 90-81 after three.

The Celtics then opened the fourth on a 9-3 run that got them within 93-90 on Horford's 3 with 8:29 to go.

Indiana answered by rebuilding a 107-99 cushion with 3:05 left, only to watch Boston go on a 13-2 run fueled by Holiday.

"We've met every challenge," Tatum said. "We're in great position right now, one win away from the finals. But we can't look past Monday or anything like that and we have a special opportunity to go back to the finals."

Wolves hit road in West finals trailing Mavs 2-0, same deficit Nuggets recently erased in Minnesota

DALLAS (AP)—The Timberwolves have the same problem in the Western Conference finals against the Mavericks that Minnesota forced on the Denver Nuggets in the previous round of the playoffs.

A struggling Anthony Edwards and company are down 2-0 headed to Dallas, which means Luka Doncic is closing in on his first trip to the NBA Finals.

After losing twice at home, there's an easy start to the conversation for the Wolves going into Game 3 on Sunday night.

The Nuggets answered two losses in Denver with two victories in Minnesota, and had Game 7 at home before blowing a 20-point lead in the second half and losing.

"We were up 2-0, then they came and won two at the crib and then won one at their crib," Edwards said, recalling the three consecutive Denver victories that gave them two chances to advance. "I don't think anybody in the locker room is panicking. I hope not."

The next part of the conversation for Minnesota is this: Dallas' two road wins were by a total of four points, capped by Doncic's step-back 3-pointer with 3 seconds remaining in a 109-108 victory. And the Wolves have led for 81 of the series' 96 minutes.

"We hoped that we could get the split decisions instead of getting the knockouts and unanimous decisions," said Karl-Anthony Towns, the second-leading scorer who is struggling alongside Edwards. "We're playing just well enough to get a split decision, but then you lose and we're frustrated that we could've done more."

Edwards and Towns likely will have to do more for Minnesota to get back in the series.

A young star who exudes confidence, Edwards has acknowledged feeling fatigue, and his numbers show it. He's 11 of 33 from the field and had a crucial turnover on a bad pass to set up Doncic's game-winner.

Towns didn't even play the final 8:40 of Game 2 and is shooting 28% in the series.

The 7-foot, four-time All-Star and 7-1 Rudy Gobert have been outplayed by Dallas' center tandem of Daniel Gafford and Dereck Lively II, with Mavs outscoring the Wolves 116-80 in the paint.

"I think with Anthony, he's gotta pick up his decision-making," Minnesota coach Chris Finch said. "With KAT, I think he's just got to calm down. I think he's coming out of the gate pressing a little bit, maybe getting off on the wrong foot and then chasing the game."

Overconfidence doesn't figure to be an issue for the Mavs.

Just three years ago, Dallas opened a first-round series against the Clippers with two wins in Los Angeles before LA rallied and won in seven games. It was the first time in NBA history a road team won the first six games of a series.

"You've just got to think about next game," said Doncic, who hadn't won a playoff series when that lead over the Clippers slipped away but now is in the West finals for the second time in three seasons. "Not in the future. Just this game."

Doncic and co-star Kyrie Irving are taking turns leading the Mavs, with huge assists from Gafford and Lively, who combined for 30 points and played big roles in the steady rally from an 18-point deficit in Game 2.

Irving scored 24 points in the first half of Game 1 to keep Dallas close, and had 13 points with four 3-pointers in the fourth quarter of Game 2.

Doncic had 15 points in the fourth quarter of the series opener before churning out his second 30-point triple-double in these playoffs, including the clutch game-winner.

Throughout the playoffs, the 25-year-old Slovenian superstar has dealt with a sprained right knee and sore left ankle. He disappeared from courtside at times in Game 2, but is now dismissing questions about how he feels physically.

"I was telling him from the beginning of the game, you have guys out here that have your back and whenever you need me to take over, I will take over the point guard responsibilities and bring the ball up," Irving said.

"There are moments where he shows his brilliance and he scores so easily and then he comes back and it looks like he's laboring a little bit. But that guy's a warrior. I'm never worried about it."

After losing their 18-point lead in Game 2, the Wolves were still up five with 1:29 remaining, thanks in part to Irving—a career 88.6% free throw shooter—missing a pair when down three 15 seconds earlier.

His fellow star bailed him out.

"I was just like, 'What the heck is going on, man?'" Irving said. "Those mistakes could weigh on you mentally and you could carry that to next game, too. So it's time to just leave that here and pray that I make all my free throws when I get back home."

The Wolves are looking to rally away from home.

Cavaliers fire coach Bickerstaff despite back-to-back playoff appearances and steady progress

CLEVELAND (AP)—J.B. Bickerstaff won and still lost his job.

He dragged the Cleveland Cavaliers through some turbulent seasons, getting them back to the playoffs and deeper into the postseason than they've been without LeBron James on the roster in more than 30 years.

It wasn't enough.

Bickerstaff was fired as Cleveland's coach Thursday despite the Cavs improving in each of his four seasons and overcoming numerous injuries this year to make it to the second round of the playoffs.

His dismissal came a week after the Cavs were eliminated by the Boston Celtics in the Eastern Conference semifinals while playing the final two games without All-Star guard Donovan Mitchell or center Jarrett Allen.

Bickerstaff was successful, but other issues apparently led Cavs owner Dan Gilbert and president of basketball operations Koby Altman to make a move that at face value might seem extreme or even unfair.

The coaching change could trigger a summer shift for the Cavs, who are hoping to sign Mitchell to a long-term contract extension and could make major moves while being tied to whatever James ultimately decides to do.

James, who can opt out of his contract with the Lakers, attended Cleveland's final home playoff game, raising speculation about him making another homecoming and playing a third stint with the Cavs—maybe a final career act.

That's down the road.

In the short term, the Cavs have begun their search for a replacement for Bickerstaff.

"J.B. is a well-respected NBA coach and an incredible human being," Altman said in a statement. "Over the past four years, he helped establish a culture that progressively drove players to become the best versions of themselves. Decisions like these are never easy, particularly when you look back at where this franchise rebuild started under his leadership.

"The NBA is a unique business that sometimes requires aggressive risk-taking to move a franchise forward and ultimately compete for championships."

Altman will hold a media availability on Friday.

Royals extend win streak to 8 games, score 3 in 11th to beat Rays

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Nelson Velázquez homered and had an RBI double in a three-run 11th inning as the Kansas City Royals beat the Tampa Bay Rays 7-4 on Saturday for their eighth straight victory.

After both teams scored once in the 10th, Velázquez opened the 11th with his hit and scored on Adam Frazier's run-scoring single off Richard Lovelady (0-3). Maikel Garcia also drove in a run with a hit.

James McArthur (2-2) allowed one run in two innings, and Nick Anderson worked a scoreless 11th to get his first save.

The Rays have lost six in a row.

Kansas City's Kyle Isbel left in the seventh after a pitch by reliever Garrett Cleavinger hit him in the face while swinging. Isabel remained on his feet and walked off with a trainer holding a towel on his face. The team announced that Isbel has facial lacerations and will undergo additional tests.

Dairon Blanco pinch-hit for Isbel and put the Royals ahead 3-2 on a sacrifice fly.

Velázquez had a second-inning homer and Bobby Witt Jr. extended his hitting streak to a season-high eight games with an RBI single off Aaron Civale in the third.

AP

Kansas City Royals' Hunter Renfroe (16) scores on a sacrifice fly by Vinnie Pasquantino, as Tampa Bay Rays catcher Ben Rortvedt, right, waits for the throw during the 10th inning of a baseball game Saturday, May 25, 2024, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

TIGERS 2, BLUE JAYS 1

DETROIT (AP)—Kerry Carpenter hit a two-run homer for a second straight game and Detroit edged Toronto.

Reese Olson (1-5) limited the Blue Jays to one unearned run and three hits in 6 1/3 innings to earn his first victory of the season. He left his previous start at Kansas City with a right hip contusion after being struck by a line drive.

Olson, who was making his 10th start of the season, has also been dealing with a lack of run support in previous outings. His ERA dropped to 1.92 after delivering another quality start.

TWINS 5, RANGERS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Alex Kirilloff hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the eighth inning to lead Minnesota to a victory over Texas.

Kirilloff, who also hit a go-ahead home run in the Twins' series-opening victory over the World Series champions on Friday night, drove a 1-0 pitch from David Robertson (2-2) into the bullpen in left-center, helping Minnesota win its fourth straight game.

Cole Sands (2-0) pitched two perfect innings to earn the victory. Jhoan Duran worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his sixth save.

GIANTS 7, METS 2, 10 INNINGS

NEW YORK (AP)—Mike Yastrzemski capped a five-run 10th inning Saturday with a three-run triple and San Francisco earned a win over skidding New York.

The Giants, who overcame deficits of at least four runs in winning each of their previous three games, forced extra innings Saturday on LaMonte Wade Jr.'s pinch-hit RBI single in the ninth against Edwin Díaz, who blew his third straight save opportunity.

Díaz pitched in a save situation Saturday for the first time since he allowed four runs in the ninth inning in a non-save situation against the Miami Marlins on May 18. He is 1-for-5 in save chances this month.

Brett Wisely led off the 10th inning with an RBI single off Sean Reid-Foley (1-2) and Patrick Bailey later drew a bases-loaded walk before Yastrzemski's two-out triple off the left-center field wall.

ORIOLES 5, WHITE SOX 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Ryan O'Hearn, Anthony Santander and Jordan Westburg homered during Baltimore's five-run eighth inning, as they beat Chicago.

Adley Rutschman walked ahead of O'Hearn's seventh homer, a drive to right-center off Jordan Leasure. Ryan Mountcastle then singled against Michael Kopech (1-4) and Santander lifted the Orioles to a 4-3 lead with a shot to right for his ninth on the season.

After Colton Cowser struck out, Westburg tacked on his eighth homer. Baltimore had been held to just three singles before its big inning.

ATHLETICS 3, ASTROS 1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—JP Sears allowed one unearned run and two hits in six solid innings, Brent Rooker hit a two-run double in the first and Oakland beat Houston.

It was the A's first victory over the Astros this season after dropping the first five games. With a win Sunday, Oakland could earn its second straight series win. The A's had dropped four straight series before taking two of three against Colorado earlier this week.

NATIONALS 3, MARINERS 1

WASHINGTON (AP)—Joey Gallo hit a two-out RBI single to cap a two-run seventh inning and give Washington a win over reeling Seattle.

Keibert Ruiz and Jesse Winker had two hits each for the Nationals.

Five pitchers limited the Mariners to five hits. Dylan Floro (1-0) pitched a perfect seventh inning and Kyle Finnegan worked the ninth for his 14th save.

Julio Rodríguez homered for Seattle, which has lost four straight for the first time this season and has scored one run or less in each of its past three games. The Mariners were held to five hits or fewer for the 14th time this season and struck out 12 times, their 35th time with double digits in strikeouts.

BREWERS 6, RED SOX 3

BOSTON (AP)—Joey Ortiz hit a two-run double to cap a five-run third inning and Milwaukee beat Boston.

Brice Turang added a solo homer for the Brewers, who beat the Red Sox for the second straight day in their three-game series.

Wearing their City Connect uniforms of bright yellow jerseys with powder blue lettering and hats, the Red Sox went hitless through six innings. Ceddanne Rafaela drove in two runs for Boston.

Colin Rea (4-2) gave up two runs in 5 2/3 innings of relief after opener Jared Koenig got the first four outs.

Rea allowed Rafael Devers' leadoff double off the center-field wall in the seventh that ended the no-hit bid.

PIRATES 4, BRAVES 1

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Mitch Keller pitched into the seventh inning, Nick Gonzales delivered an RBI double and Pittsburgh beat Atlanta.

Keller (6-3) kept Atlanta in check for 6 2/3 innings to win his fourth consecutive start. The right-hander gave up one run on six hits with four strikeouts and no walks. Keller is 4-0 with a 1.30 ERA in four starts in May and has worked at least five innings in each of his last 42 starts, the longest active streak in the majors.

Bryan Reynolds had two hits for Pittsburgh, including a run-scoring single in the seventh that gave the Pirates a little breathing room on the day they celebrated the 45th anniversary of the 1979 team's World Series title.

REDS 3, DODGERS 1

CINCINNATI (AP)—Spencer Steer and Will Benson homered, Hunter Greene pitched six innings of one-run ball and Cincinnati dealt Los Angeles a season-high fourth straight loss, securing the weekend series with a victory.

After outlasting the Dodgers 9-6 on Friday, the Reds got some big hits and shutdown relief pitching to clinch a season series for the first time in over a month.

Greene (3-2) allowed five hits and struck out five in six innings. The Reds got scoreless innings of relief from Fernando Cruz, Sam Moll and closer Alexis Diaz, who retired the Dodgers in order in the ninth for his ninth save.

After Steer's solo homer in the first, Greene got into a jam in the second. Two singles and a walk loaded the bases for the Dodgers with no outs, but they came away with just one run as Greene got Jason Heyward to hit into a double-play and Kiké Hernández grounded out.

CARDINALS 7, CUBS 6

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Brendan Donovan had a two-run single, Lars Nootbaar added an RBI triple and St. Louis rallied in the eighth inning and then held off Chicago Cubs for a victory.

In front of their first sellout crowd since opening day, the Cardinals scored four times with two outs in the eighth and won for the ninth time in 11 games in a surge that followed a seven-game losing streak.

Matt Carpenter had a pinch-hit single to tie it, with Alec Burleson sliding head first and touching home plate with his left hand just before he was tagged by catcher Miguel Amaya. Donovan followed by chopping a single into left field to put St. Louis up 6-4 and chase Mark Leiter Jr. (1-2). Nootbaar added a crucial run with his triple off Porter Hodge.

GUARDIANS 4, ANGELS 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—José Ramírez homered for the second straight game and Cleveland extended their winning streak to eight, beating Los Angeles.

Ramírez's two-run drive in the fourth inning off José Soriano (2-5) extended the Guardians' lead to 4-0. It was his third of the weekend series and sixth in eight games. He's tied for fourth in the majors with 15 home runs and has an MLB-leading 51 RBIs.

Tanner Bibee (3-1), who grew up 20 miles from Angel Stadium in Mission Viejo, picked up his first win since April 21 after going 0-1 in his previous five starts. The right-hander allowed three runs on six hits and struck out six in six innings.

YANKEES 4, PADRES 1

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Aaron Judge hit another long home run at Petco Park, Marcus Stroman pitched six strong innings and New York took a second straight win against San Diego.

Judge's two-run shot off Dylan Cease (5-4) with one out in the first went 429 feet into the second deck in left-center. It was the Yankees' fifth home run this series, for a total of 2,089 feet. Judge has homered in four straight games and has 17 this season. Anthony Volpe was aboard on a leadoff single.

The Yankees hit four home runs in an 8-0 win on Friday night, including consecutive shots by Juan Soto, in his first game in San Diego since the Padres traded him to New York on Dec. 7, and Judge.

The AL East-leading Yankees have won four straight and 11 of 13.

PHILLIES 8, ROCKIES 4

DENVER (AP)—Bryce Harper hit a three-run homer in Philadelphia's six-run ninth inning as they rallied past Colorado for their seventh win in eight games.

Trailing 3-2 in the ninth, the Phillies broke through to snap the Rockies' five-game home winning streak. After Brandon Marsh drew a leadoff walk against Jalen Beeks, Justin Lawrence (1-3) relieved and was greeted by Edmundo Sosa's RBI triple. Garrett Stubbs followed with an RBI single to put the Phillies in front 4-3.

After Kody Clemens grounded into a double play, Kyle Schwarber doubled for his third hit of the game and Bryson Stott walked. Harper, ejected in the first inning of Friday's 11-inning loss to the Rockies for arguing a strike call, drove John Curtiss' pitch over the left field fence for his 13th home run of the season. Nick Castellanos' RBI single capped Philadelphia's outburst.

DIAMONDBACKS 3, MARLINS 2

PHOENIX (AP)—Christian Walker and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit back-to-back RBI doubles in the first inning, Jordan Montgomery threw six quality innings and Arizona held on for a win over Miami.

The D-backs—the defending National League champions—are 11-7 since May 5 as they try to get back to .500 for the season. They improved to 25-27.

Paul Sewald worked the ninth for his fourth save in as many chances, retiring the Marlins in order. He returned from the injured list on May 7, solidifying the back end of the team's bullpen.

The Marlins jumped ahead 1-0 in the first. Dane Myers hit a leadoff double into the right-field corner and Josh Bell drove him home with an RBI single.

NFL closer to filling every day of week with game as league's reach keeps growing

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)— The NFL hasn't scheduled a game for every day of the week.

Yet.

"We're going to be the new 7-Eleven," New Orleans Saints defensive end Cameron Jordan said. "NFL, 24 hours, you can watch them play any given day."

The veteran preparing for his 14th season has a way of lacing his critiques with playful satire that hits his intended target. With the NFL close to filling every day of the week with a game in the 2024 season, the league with a reputation of "any given Sunday" might just qualify for that new nickname.

It's all part of the NFL's plan to keep growing the game and the league.

"Our job is to be everywhere our fans are," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said when asked about the league's new three-year Netflix deal that this year adds Wednesday games. "They have almost 300 million global subscribers. We are obviously focused on becoming more global. So it's a huge benefit to us."

That deal is why the league that has scheduled and played games on Christmas for years will be playing not one, but two games on Christmas when defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City visits Pittsburgh as part of a holiday doubleheader capped by Baltimore at Houston.

The difference is this will be only the third time the NFL has played on a Wednesday since 1950.

The four teams involved all play on Saturday, giving coaches and players the kind of turnaround faced when a Sunday game is followed by a Thursday night kickoff. Tuesday is the only day the Chiefs won't play a game this season—technically the lone day off for NFL players with Sunday games.

AP

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell responds to questions during a news conference after the football league's owners spring meetings Wednesday, May 22, 2024, in Nashville, Tenn.

Washington coach Dan Quinn said the key to preparing is sticking to a routine and shifting days. That involves trying to fool the body clock.

"This would be like a Wednesday, this would be like a Friday, this is what we do before the game, so it's not as difficult as it seems," Quinn said. "You have some travel that you have to work in, shorter weeks, longer weeks, but staying true to a process."

The Baltimore Ravens will only miss playing a game on a Tuesday and Friday in a schedule that includes a pair of Thursday games. Christmas will cap a stretch of three games in 11 days for Baltimore.

Ravens safety Kyle Hamilton said it's not so much a concern as more of a "shock factor," but players will adapt and prepare for what may be the start of a new stage for the NFL. He said players likely had the same conversations when the NFL introduced games on Monday nights, then Thursday nights.

"I'm sure 10 years from now, that might be the norm," Hamilton said of an NFL schedule featuring games throughout a week.

Arizona offensive lineman Will Hernandez said getting the body to bounce back quickly is tough.

"I just go back to this: We all signed for it. We know what it is. Let's just go," Hernandez said.

Monday nights used to be for a premier game for the NFL. A new contract added games on Sunday night.

Then the NFL started opening seasons on Thursday nights in 2006. In 2020, the NFL played its first Tuesday night game since 2010 because of the pandemic. Before that, the NFL hadn't played on a Tuesday since 1946.

The schedule released last week opens as usual on a Thursday night with Baltimore visiting Kansas City.

Then Philadelphia plays Green Bay in Brazil on Friday night—previously seen as a sacrosanct night for high school football.

Aaron Rodgers and the New York Jets kick off the traditional Monday night slate on Sept. 9 at San Francisco.

Thanksgiving long has been a day for the NFL with games in Detroit and Dallas now expanded into Thursday nights with a triple-header. This will be the second straight season the league will compete with stores for attention on Black Friday, with Las Vegas visiting Kansas City for anyone not shopping.

Add in the international games, NFL players' body clocks and circadian rhythms easily could be thrown off.

Jordan said the league preaches about using Guardian caps for player safety. "But nobody cares about our protocol of how to get our bodies back from a Sunday game to now a Wednesday game?" Jordan said. "Not saying that sounds absurd."

Player safety didn't stop the NFL from expanding the schedule from a 16-game season to 17 games in 2021 by cutting a preseason game in the league's first expansion since 1978. Now expanding to 18 games at some point in the future is a topic for discussion as Goodell says people "want obviously more football."

Then the schedule-maker has to find a day to slot those games, giving the NFL another chance to fill out the rest of a week where every day looks like just another work day for players.

"If anything, we were going to practice, so why not play?" Jordan said. "And now we can wear our Guardian caps in the game!"

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NSA STANDINGS

Majors		
Braves	5	0
Ol'Aces	4	2
Lil' Cubs	3	2
Marlins	3	2
Comets	3	3
Lil' Blue Jays	2	2
Cobras	1	4
Pirates	0	5

Juniors		
Phillies	4	0
Braves Jr.	3	1
Blue Jays Jr.	1	3
Comets Jr.	0	4

SBLSTANDINGS

Bandits	3	0
Falcons	3	0
Padres	3	0
Cardinals	4	1
Royals	3	2
Braves	2	2
Sandlot	2	1
Blue Jays	2	2
D-9er's	1	2

MICHELOB ULTRA CUP STANDINGS

(Final standings)

Team Marianas	11	0
Bridge Capital	9	2
New Chang Ming	9	2
Saints	8	3
La Mesa Kusina	6	5
Martech Ol'Aces	5	6
Akkari EET 1	5	6
Pegs	5	6
Brothers	5	6
Akkari Ruuw 2	2	9
Lakay	1	10
Shirley's	0	11

TEAM

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was followed by back-to-back 3s by Airson Atan.

At this point, Bridge Capital went mum while Team Marianas was the exact opposite. Bridge Capital ended up scoring just a total of 11 points in the fourth, while Team Marianas racked up 35 points which made for a 44-point blowout win.

Team Marianas' Coby Santos led the team with 23 markers, Jack Lizama had 20 points, while Basa put up 14.

Mizutani had a game-high 25 points, while Duenas scored 11, and Steve King contributed 8.

The playoffs is set to start this week. Starting today, Bridge Capital is taking on Akkari EET 1 at 6pm, with New Chang Ming against Ol'Aces at 7:30pm.

Tomorrow, the Saints face off against La Mesa Kusina at 6pm; on Wednesday, Team Marianas takes on the winner of Monday's Game 1, followed by the winner of Game 2 and Tuesday's game at 7:30pm.

The championship is set for this Saturday, June 1 at 6pm.

Team Marianas 111 – Santos 23, Lizama 20, Basa 14, Schmidt 11, Rabauliman 9, Ong 9, Ai. Atan 8, Dela Cruz 6, Sablan 5, Af. Atan 4, Aldan 2.

Bridge Capital 67 – Mizutani 25, Duenas 11, King 8, Richardson 5, Kim 4.

Scoring by quarters: 23-14, 35-29, 76-57, 111-67.

LIL'

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as they scored just two more before the game ended.

The Lil' Blue Jays, on the other hand, scored eight runs in the last inning. They took advantage of Ol'Aces' pitchers unable to find the strike zone and cashed in from their freebies of walks and hit by pitches.

Elijah Pelisamen then cleared the bases from an inside-the-park homer which put up the Lil' Blue Jays, 20-6. In the end, the Lil' Blue Jays' Joel and Jorell Herman got on base three times each and scored three runs apiece.

On the bump, Lil' Blue Jays' pitching staff recorded eight strikeouts and just three hits. The six runs they gave up were either from passed balls or defensive miscues. Even with that, the Lil' Blue Jays aggressiveness in the box and on the bases netted them their second win of the season.

In other games that day, the Marlins defeated the Comets, 17-9, and the Cobras beat the Pirates, 26-22.

Results of last Sunday's and today's games will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

FALCONS

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Despite first dibs by the White Sox in the first inning, by the end of the second, the Blue Jays scored five runs for a 5-2 lead.

The Blue Jays continued to keep the bat on the ball and scored three more runs in the third inning for an 8-2 game. The White Sox' struggles at the plate continued but managed to squeeze in a run in the fourth from a passed ball. One more run would score later to make it 4-8.

That was all she wrote, however, as the Blue Jays ace Kevin Kapileo shut them down in the last two innings.

The Blue Jays then scored five more in the fourth, and added one in the sixth for a 14-4 final and grabbed their second win.

Blue Jays' Frankie Lieto recorded three hits from four at-bats, had a double, and scored two runs, while teammate Chris George went two-for-two and scored one run.

In other results last Tuesday, the Padres clubbed the D-9er's, 7-1, and last Monday, the Cardinals pummeled the Royals, 13-2.

Holiday's finishing flurry helps Celtics beat Pacers for 3-0 lead in East finals.

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Sports

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Lil' Blue Jays shut down Ol'Aces, 20-6

LEIGH GASES

Lil' Blue Jays' Jay Sablan makes contact on a swing during one of their games in the Major League of the Natibu Sports Association Youth Baseball League at the Capital Hill Softball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lil' Blue Jays shut down Ol'Aces, 20-6, in the Major League of the Natibu Sports Association Youth Baseball League last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field.

It was a run frenzy for the young Blue Jays as they took a page from their men's team in the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League.

All nine players and pinch hitters contributed as they clubbed Ol'Aces' pitching staff.

The floodgates hadn't opened in the first inning yet, but the Lil' Blue Jays tacked on three runs to get the game started. Ol'Aces' Knox Sablan knocked one in the first and it was a 1-3 game.

Then, it didn't take long before the game was busted wide open as in the second, the Lil' Blue Jays put up five runs. But, Ol'Aces' William Flores, Lorenzo Cruz, and Tioni Kapileo touched home to creep up, 4-8.

Ol'Aces' pitching continued to take a beating in the third with four more runs scored by the Lil' Blue Jays. Offensively for Ol'Aces, they couldn't muster up much runs as well

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Team Marianas undefeated heading into 2024 playoffs

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Team Marianas notched their 11th straight win and is still undefeated heading into the playoffs of the 2024 Michelob Ultra Cup after they beat Bridge Capital, 111-67, last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In a reign of unmatched supremacy, Team Marianas boasts the only undefeated record as they head into the playoffs. But against Bridge Capital—who are tied for second with New Chang Ming with a 9-2 record—they were given a run for their money in the first half.

Team Marianas, however, doubled down and continued their reign of terror on the court as their offense exploded in the last half.

Despite just a 6-point margin heading into the second half from an aggressive Bridge Capital team, Team Marianas seemed to be rejuvenated by the half time break. They came out with more energy and focus and quickly regained control of the game.

By the start of the fourth quarter, their lead was in double digits once again, 76-57.

It was all uphill from there as everyone contributed to their ever-growing lead. Douglas Schmidt opened up the last quarter with a three, which became a precursor to their hail of threes towards the end of the game.

Bridge Capital's Francisco Mizutani and Matt Duenas and company were shut down and struggled to keep up. Mizutani contributed from downtown as Duenas tried to do everything from within the paint and the charity line, but it wasn't enough to take down the giants of the league.

Team Marianas extended their lead further as Preston Basa scored his fourth three of the game. Djay Ong followed suit with a 3 of his own, then

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NMIBF

File photo shows Team Marianas' Aiferson Atan setting up the play during one of their games in the 2024 Michelob Ultra Cup at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Falcons, Blue Jays take flight in SBL

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Falcons and Blue Jays took flight in the 2024 Tan Holdings-SBL after they defeated their foes last Wednesday and Thursday.

The Falcons first bested the Bears, 8-4, last Wednesday.

The fourth-inning explosion by the Falcons' offense was the last nail in the coffin as the Bears could not retaliate. It was a tied game, 3-3, at the end of the third, and with both teams being evenly matched, it was still anyone's game.

The Falcons' bottom of the order from M.J. Aldan and Henry Iguel gave them the boost they needed in the fourth as they first scored two runs. The top of the lineup with A.J. Evangelista kept the ball rolling and scored as well for a 6-3 lead.

Henry Aguon and Benen Iguel would then score the last two runs and sit on a five-run lead, 8-3, heading into the fifth.

The Falcons' pitching staff dug in and pulled off the save as they gave up just one run in the sixth. They went on to leave runners stranded and struck out the last two batters to clinch their third straight win.

In the Blue Jays vs. White Sox game, the Blue Jays soared to a 14-4 win last Thursday.

It was a productive night for the middle and bottom of the Blue Jays lineup as they scored back-to-back runs throughout the game.

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NEXT LEVEL MEDIA CNMI

File photo shows Blue Jays' James Salalila running toward home during one of their games in the 2024 Tan Holdings-SBL at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.